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Local Government Service

No. 22 OCTOBER, 1934 Vol. XV

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISE: A PLEA FOR GREATER LATITUDE

BY FRED CULL, P.A.S.I., CITY ASSESSOR'S DEPARTMENT, GLASGOW

First place in Class II of the Sir Arthur Robinson Essay Competition was awarded to Mr. Fred Cull P.A.S.I., City Assessor's Department, Glasgow. Below we give Mr. Cull's essay in extenso.

MR. FRED CULL

THE system of local government in this country contains certain fundamental differences from that usual on the continent. Among the distinguishing characteristics the most important are these: (1) there are no administrative officials appointed by the govern ment of this country, the responsible authorities being elected councils, and (2) English local authorities may not exercise any function without distinct statutory authority, nor acquire land except for some definite purpose.

The latter restrictions may seem at first sight unnecessarily oppressive as compared with the continental system where a local authority may exercise any function unless specifically forbidden. It should be remembered, however, that in foreign countries this latitude is circumscribed, and powers which seem to confer wide freedom on a local authority are in fact often subject to the veto of a prefect or other government official. In regard to France, for instance, where nominally the municipal council of the commune may direct the mayor to carry out any action considered desirable, provided not excluded by law, it has been stated that "all resolutions of any importance, all those which affect the life of the commune, can only be carried out with the approval of the prefect; without such approval the municipal council could not even change the name of a street."

Local Authorities' Powers

Examining, on the other hand, the powers possessed by English local authorities, we find that their statutory powers are considerable and may be widened by a local Act. Their rating powers are such that no limit is placed on the amount which may be raised for any statutory purpose. No sanction by a superior authority is required for financial proceeedings, except the raising of loans, and no investigation is made at the audit unless in very exceptional cases. Loans may be raised in pursuance of a Provisional Order, subject to certain limitations and for certain other purposes such as education, public libraries or provision of employment for unemployed persons.

A system of government grants has arisen which has tended to increase the control exercised by the central departments. Ratepayers themselves are mainly responsible for the growth of the system, through insisting that services which are essentially national in character should be maintained at national expense although locally administered. Grants are given subject to departmental approval of the administration of services so aided. Such services as education, police, highways, public health, harbours and docks, small holdings and allotments, electric light supply undertakings, fire brigades, housing and poor relief have all benefited to some extent from government grants and are therefore subject to a degree of central supervision.

If a local authority in this country wishes to embark upon an enterprise for which no statutory authority exists, it must do so by means of a Private Act or Provisional Order. The former has often proved a very expensive proceeding. It is on record, for instance, that an average Act of Parliament cost the city of Leeds, in the years from 1897 to 1913, nearly £7,000. The Provisional Order, on the other hand, is an expedient which has suffered severe criticism from high legal authorities on the grounds that it undermines the authority of Parliament and increases the power of officialdom.

The Swiss System

Turning now to a system with which to compare our own, probably the best example of unfettered local administration is to be found in Switzerland. Control by superior authorities is little more than formal there, and is only exercised in exceptional cases, such as when the financial stability of the commune is threatened. The commune is the unit of local government, and different communes exist for different purposes. There is an ever-changing variety of communes, but it should be noted that development along this line has been discouraged. All communes have their own councils which are democratic in form, and are elected by the Communal Assembly. The latter have control of all affairs except actual executive administration. They approve the budget and fix local taxes, by-laws and regulations.

The system has deep-rooted traditions in Switzerland, and communes are free to exercise any functions which they believe will be to the benefit of the community. As one might expect, a wide variety of services are carried out. In addition to the ordinary services of police, public health, poor relief, education and roads, such enterprises as municipal playgrounds, theatres, and other places of amusement are common. Communes also control water supply, gas and electricity undertakings, tramways and local railways. It is a common practice for districts to divide or unite in order to achieve greater efficiency in administering a particular service over a defined area.

Communes obtain the major part of their income from additions to State taxes, from local direct taxation and from dog taxes, bicycle, motor and hunting licences. The property they own is also a fruitful source of revenue and in some cases reduces taxation almost to vanishing point.

It will readily be appreciated, therefore, that local self-government is probably more complete in Switzerland than in any other country. Whilst, however, a wide latitude is given to local authorities, it should be recognised that the possibility of forming special areas for any given purpose is a considerable advantage. It should be noted, also, that there is a tendency towards increased powers of supervision, especially in cases where financial danger is threatened.

Although there are other countries where authorities have a free hand but for certain statutory limitations, their powers are, in fact, often seriously curtailed. The power of the prefect in France has already been referred to. The authority of the municipal council there is further limited by:—

(1) Restrictions on taxing power; (2) Prefect's approval for most financial proposals; (3) Restrictions as to fairs and markets; (4) Jurisdiction of administrative courts; (4) Power of suspension by prefect and dissolution by some higher power. So that, while nominally the council may direct the mayor to carry out any function within the law, in practice they may be reduced to a position of impotence.

In Germany (to take a third example), during the 19th century, considerable liberty of action was allowed to local authorities, only functions of a "police" nature being excluded. Interest in local government has always been maintained, and inroads on the rights and liberties of communes have been fiercely contested. The German system is more akin to the Swiss than the French, but here, also, there has been a tendency (since the Revolution) towards increased central supervision.

Encouraging Initiative

What advantages may be claimed for the continental system as against the English? Firstly, there is the encouragement to initiative. If a town wishes a municipal theatre, but knows that before permission can be obtained several thousands of pounds might have to be spent on a local act, the chances are rather against their taking the necessary steps; but if the inexpensive safeguard of, perhaps, a plebiscite vote were the only requirement, this and many similar enterprises might possibly be carried out. Secondly, the resultant quickening of interest in municipal affairs would be of immense benefit to the personnel of local authorities. The apathy of local government electors in this country is proverbial, with average polls in the region of 50 per cent. and some lower than 25 per cent. Thirdly, with the passage of time and increase in the scope of activity, municipalities might accumulate wealth, as in

(Continued on next page)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISE

(*Continued from preceding page*)

Switzerland, which would reflect in lower rates and increased benefit to the ratepayers. By this means, also, the cultural and recreative functions might be extended, the health services improved and the welfare of the community administered to with greater freedom.

Certain disadvantages, however, fall to be recorded. If municipalities in a new found freedom embarked on all kinds of trading ventures, considerable embarrassment might be caused to Public Utility Corporations of which there is a considerable and growing number in this country. Some of these, such as Savings Banks, are of long standing and have been productive of much good to the community, and it would hardly be in the public interest that a new source of competition should be allowed to hamper them. Secondly, an increase of debt incurred by local authorities would operate against general borrowing powers. This is a very serious objection which would require to be corrected by stringent regulations.

Future Development

In attempting to decide how far the present system of specific statutory authority could be improved, we ought to consider the present achievements of local authorities together with what is expected of them. There is no doubt that in spite of existing restrictions, such as they are, local authorities in this country have shown remarkable initiative, and a long list could be made of successful municipal enterprises in various parts of the country. In Glasgow, for instance, the debt on the tramway system has been entirely liquidated, and the tramways are a direct source of revenue to the ratepayers; Birmingham has a successful municipal bank; Bristol owns the docks and harbours; Hull and Liverpool each own a crematorium; Doncaster and Chester own racecourses; Birkenhead and Wallasey own ferries; Bradford owns a hotel.

Can one doubt that authorities would not fail to seize opportunities which a less rigid system might give them?

Moreover, new functions are steadily being added to those already discharged. The 1925 Report of the Royal Commission on Local Government expresses the opinion that "no limit can be set to the further development and new calls for adaptation which the future may bring forth," an opinion which subsequent experienee has only too clearly borne out. As recently as February last, the Under-Secretary for Air informed the House that at the time work on the construction of municipal aerodromes had already begun, or was likely to begin shortly, at Birmingham, Brighton-Hove-Worthing, Carlisle, Doncaster, Hastings, Leicester, Rochester, Southport and Walsall. Are we giving a service such as air transport a proper chance to develop, by maintaining the present system?

Provision of Safeguards

The dangers and disadvantages of a system of specific statutory prohibition could surely be minimised by adequate safeguards. In fact, as has been shown in the case of France, safeguards could be sufficient, if desired, to veto any local scheme whatever. But if a licence were allowed approaching that in Switzerland, with proper protection for outside bodies, there seems no reason to doubt that it would be to the benefit both of the public and the local authorities.

An important consideration, however, arises. Would it be wise to divorce a scheme for a revision of power from one for a revision of areas? The latter reform is one, the discussion of which is perhaps outside the scope of this article. Be it said, however, that schemes involving radical changes in the areas of administration have been promulgated from time to time by eminent sociologists in this country, and it seems very evident to the writer that the question of areas in relation to services will sooner or later require to be faced. The only alternative seems to be in the direction of increased central control.

But if one must decide upon an immediate reform within the four corners of the present system, a less cumbersome form of procedure than the local Act would be desirable. The 1925 Report showed that opinion was divided on the subject, criticism being offered that it was inelastic, ineffective and unduly expensive. Perhaps a general Act laying down limitations and prohibitions upon new functions which local authorities might exercise would be a more elastic and less expensive method.

At all events, the guiding principle in all schemes of reform should be that local initiative should be encouraged to the utmost. The framework and machinery of local government should be continually under supervision and periodically overhauled, so that ambition, imagination and enterprise on the part of local authorities should receive their due reward.

THE CITY MANAGER

Mr. Clarence E. Ridley and Mr. Orin F. Nolting, the director and the assistant director of the International City Managers' Association, in "The City Manager Profession" (University of Chicago Press and Cambridge University Press, 9s. net), set forth the basis of the aspiration of the city manager to be recognised by the world as he has come to regard himself—namely, a professional man engaged in a professional work, governing himself by professional standards of training, obligations, and ethics. The rise of the city manager is not a political phenomenon in itself. It is claimed to be the manifestation in municipal government of the increasing recognition of the technological revolution; in other words, another example of replacement of the amateur by the technician. Technical functions of local government must, of course, be administered by specially trained technicians. But, it is contended, there is also a technique of administration—a problem of management, of the co-ordination of the various functions and activities of local government, of integrated responsibility for the administration as a whole. The council-manager form of government is operating in some 425 cities and counties in the United States.

A GREAT SOCIAL EXPERIMENT

BECONTREE AND DAGENHAM: Survey made for the Pilgrim Trust by Terence Young. (10s. 6d.)

IN his introduction to this survey of the Becontree and Dagenham Housing Estates, Mr. Stanley Baldwin says that the rehousing of more than 100,000 people by one local authority in one place would, in any event, have been an operation deserving of record, and that, when the place was an agricultural area, distant and isolated and little known, the results seem likely to be still more interesting.

The story of this tremendous scheme and a consideration of the various sociological problems which have arisen in connection therewith has now been written in the form of a survey of life on the estate, which the Pilgrim Trust have enabled to be made.

The London County Council have confined their activities to the task of planning, building, and managing as landlords, and cannot, therefore, be expected to publish any general account of the social effects of their vast experiment.

Mr. Terence Young, under the auspices of the Pilgrim Trust, has stepped into the gap and produced this comprehensive report, which is of the greatest social value. The report is admirably arranged. Dealing first with the early history of the area, Mr. Young proceeds to give an account of the growth of the Becontree estate from 1921 onwards.

(It may, perhaps, interest the author to know that the Stoke Newington Public Library possesses a very considerable amount of material forming a history of this district, comprising a narrative history in manuscript supplemented with original drawings, maps, deeds, and many other illustrations bequeathed to them by the late Mr. E. J. Sage.)

To the Local Government Officer, parts III and IV of this book will probably be of the greatest interest. Part III deals with the lay-out of the estate, local government and other boundaries, population and occupation of tenants, local activities and industries, transport facilities, unemployment, public health, rent and rates, alleviation of distress, education, library services, and institutions and voluntary organisations.

Removal Rate

Part IV deals with the removal rate and examines the whole of the probable causes of removal from Becontree on various dates. The removal rate varied from one per cent. in 1921-1922 to seventeen per cent. in 1928-1929 and shows an average over a period of ten years of ten per cent.—a higher rate than that of any of the large cottage estates of the London County Council. Part IV also contains an extremely interesting chapter on economic effects consequent upon removal to Becontree. As a result of investigations made by the "New Survey of London Life and Labour" it was found that out of 872 families, 571 had paid 12s. or less a week in rent. This group paid more in rent (plus rates) on arrival at Becontree; over 100 had to pay at least double their former rent; of the remaining 301, 200 may have paid about the same rent, and the other 100 probably less. Well over 400 of the families out of 900 consisting of four or more persons lived previously in one or two rooms. In this chapter there is also contained a summary of the Inquiry made by the "Weekend Review" in 1923 on the subject of the minimum cost of an adequate diet.

Part IV also contains chapters on spare-time activities, the adolescent and the effect on health, in the last of which reference is made to the well-known paper of Dr. McGonigle, Medical Officer of Health of Stockton-on-Tees, with respect to deficiencies in diet resulting from a transfer of family expenditure from food to rent.

The Future

Part V of the book is headed "The Future," and deals with such questions as the future population, unemployment, and local industry, planning and future development, and the development of social amenities.

The report also contains some extremely interesting appendices. Appendix 10, which gives details of the economic circumstances of some families living on the estate and of the occupations of the chief earners, is of particular interest.

The survey is illustrated by numerous photographs, maps, plans and graphs, and contains an adequate index. It is a document of the utmost importance and should be read by all those who are interested in housing and schemes of social welfare.

It is published by Messrs. Samuel Sidders and Son, Ltd., of 115 Salusbury Road, London, N.W.6. —*C. K. W.*

"Who's Who in Local Government," To be published by the "Municipal Journal," will be a worthy souvenir of 1935 when Local Government in its modern form celebrates its centenary.

PORTS OF CALL ON THE CENTENARY CRUISE

No. 1: STOCKHOLM—"A POEM IN STONE"

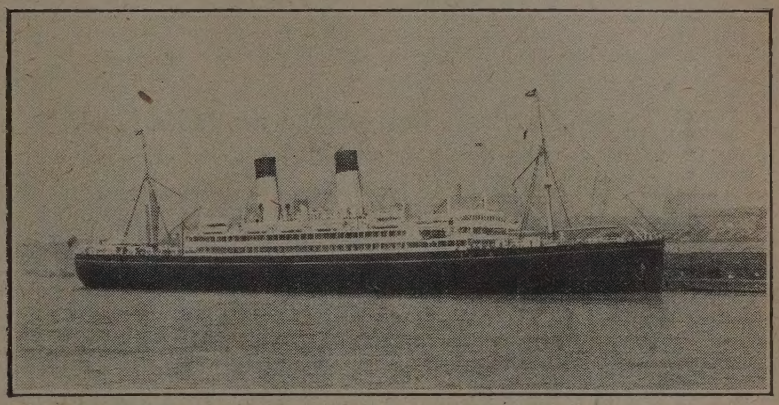
OF all the cities that will be visited on the special cruise which N.A.L.G.O. is arranging as part of the celebrations of the centenary of local government in this country next year, perhaps none will excite interest and stir the imagination to such a degree as will Stockholm. There, without question, is one of the world's most beautiful cities—a poem in stone crystallised by the imagination of a progressive northern people. The visitor who surveys Stockholm from a height sees stretching before him a panorama which resembles nothing so much as a succession of mirrors in richly ornamented rococo frames.

The city has the finest site one can imagine. Long inlets stretch in from the Baltic and at a point some thirty miles from the open sea join in one narrow neck with an island in the middle of it. East of this island the water area opens out again into the huge fresh-water lake of Malaren fed by rivers which empty themselves into the sea through channels on either side of the island. The original city of Stockholm was built on this island in the middle of the 13th century, and never after that time has an enemy penetrated to Lake Malaren.

World-famed Town Hall

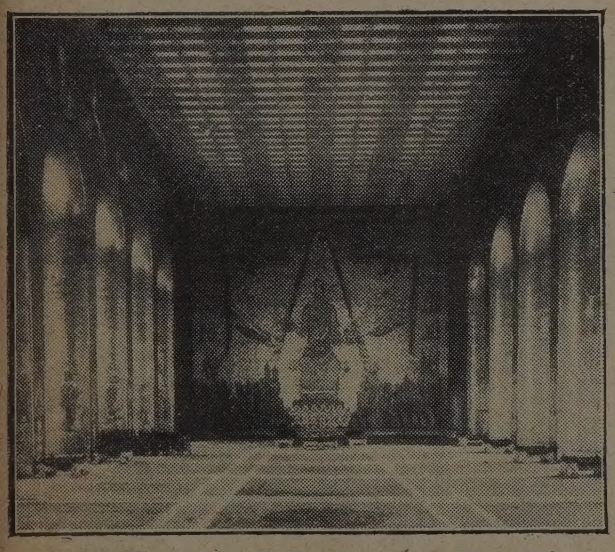
Bridges connect the old city with the mainland on either side. Close to the northern bridge, on the shore of Lake Malaren, stands the Town Hall, a structure of world-wide fame, begun in 1911 and formally opened in 1923. It is built mainly of hand finished red bricks. The architect, Ragnar Ostberg, has borrowed ideas from all over the world, and adapted them to his needs. At one corner is a tall plain square tower surmounted by a quaint little belfry above which are suspended the three crowns which are the emblem of Sweden. The story is told that when the Prince of Wales was taken, by lift, up this tower he noted the great sheer drop from the edge and inquired whether anyone had ever jumped over. The Swedish gentleman next him did not understand English too well, and thinking that the Prince asked whether anyone ever walked up, replied cheerfully, "Oh yes, Sir, two or three every day"—a reply which gave the Prince his heartiest laugh in Stockholm.

The interior decorations are as varied as the architecture. Perhaps the loveliest part is the great gallery on the first floor running along the water front. The beauty of this gallery is in an enormous alcove running most of its length and separated from the gallery by black pillars with white capitals and bases. The floor of the alcove is grey marble, and its walls are frescoes of cool woodland scenes painted by Prince Eugene of Sweden in blue, green and ocre only.



The S.S. DORIC, Cunard—White Star Liner of 16,500 tons, specially chartered for the Centenary Cruise

The Council Chamber for the rulers of the city is magnificently upholstered in crimson damask, much of the walls being covered with the same material. One enters and leaves this Chamber through small libraries filled with works of reference on city matters, both these libraries being half the height of the other rooms, an excellent arrangement preventing books from being high out of reach. The special pride of the Town Hall is its great reception room, the walls of which are of gold mosaic! At the top of the room are bold designs representing figures. The idea seems to be borrowed from the great mosaic figures in the apses of Italian or Byzantine Churches.



The Golden Hall at the Stockholm Town Hall. It is inlaid with gold mosaic, symbolical representation depicting Stockholm as Queen of the Malaren

The Town Hall covers an oblong site and the rooms are arranged round two courtyards, the larger one open to the sky and the smaller one roofed in. The floors, stairs and balcony in this smaller court are of the same grey-green marble that is used so much. Over the balcony is a gorgeous gold canopy. The walls are red brick, and an interesting feature is a dado round the top of the walls of plain clear glass from which the court is adequately lit and ventilated.

Stockholm of to-day is distinguished by intensive creative activity, both in the city and on the outskirts. Considerable reconstruction work is going on in connection with the approaches to the city from the southern sections, and large bridges are being erected in the western section. The new Tranebergs Bridge, which has just been opened, effects a great improvement in communications between Stockholm and its suburbs. It is said to be the largest single span concrete bridge in the world.

Although the population of Stockholm is only a little over 500,000, narrow streets, waterways dividing the city into 13 islands, and insufficient bridges have created a serious traffic problem. The worst congestion has been at Slussen where Lake Malaren joins the Baltic. As the only connection between the northern and southern half of the capital, it has grown to be the fifth most important traffic centre in Europe. It has to serve 300,000 people living in Northern Stockholm and 225,000 in Southern Stockholm. About 45,000 motor-cars and motor omnibuses cross it in a working day. Including pedestrians and passengers in tramcars and other vehicles, it is crossed by about 260,000 people daily.

The Corporation is resolutely tackling the problem of congestion. It is building a new bridge across Lake Malaren about 1½ miles west of Slussen, at a total cost of £700,000. It is hoped that this structure will be completed by October next year. Again, the Corporation is entirely rebuilding Slussen and its approaches. At present, while work is proceeding, it carries four parallel streams of traffic in each direction. When the scheme is completed the traffic will be handled on a three-loop elevated road plan, known to Swedish engineers as the "clover system," the first of its kind in Europe. The elevation is natural, as South Stockholm rises steeply from this traffic centre. The roads across Slussen will be on two levels, and vehicles desiring to cross from one traffic lane to another against the stream will have to make a loop to the higher or lower level, as the case may be. This scheme will involve an expenditure of £750,000.

Stockholm's Garden Cities

In various parts of the town blocks of flats in the new style of architecture are to be found. Stockholm's "garden cities" always evoke a lively interest. Situated within the boundaries of the capital, they are particularly well arranged communities of single-family houses and villas. The city authorities facilitate the building and acquisition of these dwellings by the grant of loans. They are mostly built in pairs in individual styles, each having a garden of greater or less extent. Among the "garden cities" may also be included the independent municipalities of Saltsjöbaden and Djursholm, about half an hour's rail journey from Stockholm. They consist principally of exceedingly fine residences standing in well-kept grounds. Stockholm has close upon 150 open spaces, a noteworthy feature of municipal enterprise.

(*Continued on page* 661)

ARE YOU 30 YEARS OLD?

IF so, you have more than reached the period in life when a vital question should be decided. The years "roll by" after thirty. Responsibilities increase. The welfare of others must be considered.

WHAT PROVISION HAVE YOU MADE FOR THE FUTURE?

Life Assurance is the only "safe" provision. Here are a few examples of what it offers a man who is now aged **30**.

— **£500** (plus profits) payable at death for 17/11 per month, or 21/3 per month if the premiums cease at age 60.

— **£500** (plus profits) payable in 20 years, or at death if that occurs previously, for 38/9 per month.

— **£500** payable at death. If death occurs within 20 years, **£100** payable immediately, **30/-** per week for remainder of the 20 years, and then a further payment of **£400**. Premium, 18/4 per month.

— **£500** Mortgage on a house. The balance owing will be paid off should the borrower's death occur at any time during a term of 20 years. Premium, 6/8 per month, payable for 13½ years only.

Premiums for larger or smaller amounts and for other ages can be ascertained from **N.A.L.G.O.** **24, Abingdon St. LONDON, S.W.1**

SCHOLASTIC ALLIANCE

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES FOR OFFICERS' CHILDREN

EVERY parent wants to do the best he can for his children—to give them a good education and training. What kind of educational training shall he give his children, or rather what kind of education can he afford? In the case of many public servants it must be the state elementary school, followed by the state secondary school. In recent years the efficiency of these schools has been unquestionable. But is that all that is desirable in the equipping of our children, all that the better class of officer desires for his boy or girl? Why is it that the children of what are known as the better classes, the well-to-do parents, are invariably sent to a famous public school, or as is now becoming more and more the practice, to a good modern boarding-school? It is because there they get "something" which they cannot get at any day-school.

The Leisure Hours

An important aspect of the matter is that the leisure hours of the child at home are often so unsatisfactorily occupied. The child has had a full day at school, brings home "prep" work. The father arrives home after probably a very trying day at the office and the mother is tired out through ineffectual domestic help, and so the child does not get the care, attention and interest during these so-called leisure hours that it needs. In a well conducted boarding-school, not only the school working hours are planned, but all kinds of cultural interests and merry companionship are provided, and the pupil leads a more orderly and far more interesting life than is possible in any private home with attendance at a day-school. All this goes to the formation of what after all is more important even than examination results, and that is personal character combined with "savoir faire," an ability to deal with a difficult or any situation, to acquire a good style of speech, a confident yet deferential bearing, and generally to be unmistakably what is known as a "gentleman" or a "lady."

What The Alliance Is

"Yes," replies the average public official, "I know that is what most of us would like for our children, but at present it is quite out of our reach financially." The object of this article is to inform him that this better and fuller education and training for his children has been brought well within the reach of a very large proportion of public officers by the formation of the Public Services' Scholastic Alliance. This is an alliance of certain selected boys' and girls' boarding-schools of good standing which have agreed to allot a certain proportion of places to the children of public servants at approximately two-thirds their ordinary fees. These special fees range from sixty-five to eighty guineas per annum inclusive of extra subjects and covering practically all a pupil needs for school life, other than school clothing. The distinguished educationalist, Sir Henry Hadow, is President of the Alliance, and the General Secretary of N.A.L.G.O., Mr. L. Hill, is Vice-President.

The final of the Lawn Tennis Tournament arranged by the South Eastern District Committee was played on September 8, at Preston Park, Brighton. The finalists were the Kent County Council Public Assistance Department (the holders of the cup for the years 1931, 1932 and 1933) and the West Sussex County Council Branch. Each team won two matches, the result being decided by games, *viz.*: West Sussex Branch, 37 games. Kent Public Assistance Department, 32 games. The respective branches were represented as follows: West Sussex: Messrs. Farr and Robinson. Messrs. Edwards and Hall. Kent Public Assistance Department, Mr. Clements and Miss Lyle. Messrs. Davy and Carpenter.

AT RANDOM: COMMENTARY ON CURRENT EVENTS

By HYPERION

Side Lights on Nazi Germany

The Dictate of Conscience

Certainly the Jew is also a human being. Never has any one of us doubted that. But the flea also is an animal, only not a pleasant one. As the flea is not a pleasant animal, we do not feel any duty towards ourselves and our conscience to guard and protect it, and to let it thrive so that it may bite, sting, and torture us, but to render it innocuous. So it is with the Jews.—Dr. Goebbels, Minister for National Enlightenment (*Der Nazi-Sozi*, page 8).

That's That

Christ could not have been a Jew. Scientific proof is not necessary. It is so.—Dr. Goebbels (quoted in the *Statesman & Nation*, August 5, 1933).

The Whole Duty of Woman

We don't want women with brains; we want Aryan babies.—A prominent Nazi leader, quoted by Mrs. Cecil Chesterton (*Evening Standard*, August 28, 1933).

Plague of Rabbits

I understand that the fine summer has given the rabbits a prolific season and that farmers are now starting their trapping campaign. Do you know these verses, written by an anonymous writer, on a rabbit :—

The rabbit has a charming face;
Its private life is a disgrace.
I really dare not name to you
The awful things that rabbits do;
Things that your paper never prints—
You only mention them in hints.
They have such lost degraded souls
No wonder they inhabit holes;
When such depravity is found
It only can live underground.

The Triumph of Scientific Experiment !

An educational experiment in which an Indiana professor and his wife adopted a female chimpanzee and reared her in exactly the same way as their own son, was referred to at the meeting of the British Association yesterday. The result of this novel experiment was that the chimpanzee remained a chimpanzee and the child a child.—*Extract from a press report of the British Association meetings.*

Bathos

MISS J. C. MACL—— (Perthshire) : " There's nothing I can suggest; at sixty, one is bound to be gradually the worse for wear. If it isn't one thing, it's another. So long as we face life and death undismayed, it's all right. Only I doubt, very much, that soup is good for you; of course, it all depends how the soup is made and what it's made of."—*Daily Press*

Film Directors and the Herd Instinct

The herd instinct, to which all of us are prone, assumes gargantuan proportions in the case of film directors. At a cinema in the North of London the " big pictures " in three successive weeks were Elizabeth Bergner in *Catherine the Great*, Garbo in *Queen Christina*, and Marlene Dietrich in *The Scarlet Empress*. And similarly with " The Private Lives " series. As soon as Korda achieved success with his *Private Life of Henry VIII* all the producers tumble over themselves to depict, in varying degrees of vulgarity, the private lives of other figures in history and legend.

The Fair Sex

(1) " My wife's a bad woman gone to the good," he said. " That's what you'd call her. Has it occurred to you that if women weren't so damned changeable there wouldn't be half the trouble in the world? They don't know their own minds for two minutes together. D'you know what I've learnt about women—and I've known a few of them in my time? "

I told him I had no idea.

" Nothing," he said. " Absolutely nothing. No one can understand women, and they don't understand themselves. They don't want to." —From *Cheapjack*, by Philip Allingham.

(2) " She's just what they call very tight strung, sir. You know. Just one word too many, and she's off like a banjo string."

" Do you play the banjo, Gunton? "

" You don't still play it? "

" No, sir, not since Mrs. G. stamped on it when I turned over and went to sleep without saying good night twice. Funny things, women, sir. They feel things more than what we do, I believe."—From *The Three Corners*, by Compton Mackenzie.

(3) For a man to pretend to understand women is bad manners : for him really to understand them is bad morals.—*Henry James.*

Crocuses—(perennials)

A Crocus is a slang term for a member of the Grafters' profession who specialises in pills. The Vicar of St. James's Church, Bermondsey, met a Crocus the other day and persuaded him to put down his experience of pill-selling in Bermondsey for the local church magazine.

Here is what the Crocus says : " Mugs, mugs, marvellous mugs, street markets seething with mugs—that is Bermondsey as I see it. How Bermondsey loves pills ! It laps them up in millions. What do the pills contain? I have no idea. A wholesaler lets me have them for a penny a gross and assures me they are perfectly harmless. I sell a box of five for sixpence. I do the pills up in different coloured boxes—pink for the stomach, blue for the lungs, green for rheumatics and yellow for strength—but all have the same little innocent pills inside."

If you read the book " Cheapjack," which I recommended in this column a few months ago, —you will realise that Bermondsey has not a monopoly of mugs and that people's muggery (? mugness, mugdom—if I may coin a word) is not confined to the purchase of pills.

Romance—The Lying Jade

Romance is in the air on the Riviera, for I have an engagement for you in the shape of young Willy (Woolworth) Donahue and Wendy Barrie, who played I-always-forget-which wife in the film of Henry VIII.

I am publishing a very exclusive picture of them. I took it myself and the news could hardly have been " hotter " for they had, at that very moment, got engaged and called me over from another table in the garden of the Martinez Bar to create pictorial evidence in celebration of the event.—The Marquess of Donegall in *Sunday Dispatch*, September 2, 1934.

Comment—by the alleged 'groom-to-be, over the long-distance 'phone from Cannes last night :—

" Crazy ! " All of them ! Everyone who says I'm engaged to Miss Barrie.

" I met her only four days ago. We were photographed together. Then people said we were engaged.

" Besides, straight from my heart to the *Sunday Graphic*, I'm not engaged to Miss Barrie. And I'm not likely to be. Thanks, all the same, for asking. Good-night."—*The Sunday Graphic*, September 2, 1934.

Two Queries

A London newspaper office received an unusual inquiry on the telephone the other day. " We have seen," said a feminine voice, " a number of references in the Press to the law of supply and demand. Could you kindly inform us what this law is and when it was passed? "

* * *

Which reminds me of Hugh Walpole's story of a question addressed to him after he had been lecturing on Art in a middle-western town in the U.S.A. An intense, middle-aged woman came up to him and said : " I have *so* enjoyed your delightful lecture, Mr. Walpole, but, tell me, this Art you have been talking about—*is it a new thing or has it been going on for some time?* "

* * *

The Three Steins

Do you know Miss Gertrude Stein, that modern of the moderns in literary expression? If you don't, here is an extract from one of her works :—

" *November the fifteenth and simply so that simply so that simply in that simply in that simply so that in that simply in that simply in that simple way simply so that simply so that in that way simply in that way, simply in that way so that simply so that simply simply in that way, simply in that so that simply so that simply so that simply in that, simply in that so that simply so that simply in that, so that simply in that way.*"

(No, you're wrong ! Both the printer and I are perfectly sober !)

Those who profess to understand Miss Stein expound her idea that the use of literature is to create atmosphere, out of which the meditative mind can create its own reality. If any meditative mind can create any kind of reality out of the extract I have quoted, it would surprise me !

Miss Stein seems to have justified the estimate of her work in the following limerick about herself, Epstein and Einstein :—

" There's a wonderful family—Stein.
There's Gert. and there's Ep. and there's Ein.
Gert.'s poems are bunk,
Ep.'s statues are junk,
And nobody understands Ein."

* * *

Belisha Beacon

" Explain briefly "—the school-boy of the future may be asked—" Belisha Beacon."

The correct answer, I suppose, will be that it is a lamp unto our feet at an uncontrolled crossing, so-called from a certain Minister of Transport who greatly flourished in 1934.

I hear that Mr. Hore-Belisha himself invented both the beacon and the name. "Horeb" may also have occurred to him as an alternative.

I am told that he is taking as a new motto, " Nulla dies sine linea "—No day without a line.

The " Belisha Beacons " have yet to prove themselves. I hope that in their popularity and usefulness they may rival the " Bismarck Herring " rather than the " Brodrick Cap."—*The Daily Telegraph.*

Local Government Post-bag

Dear Sir

Dont you think its time no 9 had a bigger place if you would kindley see to that we would all be pleased as she is a pest here for she has caused trouble with telling wicked lies about no 13 and she ought to be stoped her and no 10 got no 13 out on the garden on monday last and between the two of them the woman didnt know how to move and what they didnt say and we know its all lies about she has wrote down the Town Hall about them and no 10 ought to know better for her husband works there and shouting out about no 13 is no good and all this caper they ought to be stoped at it for no 9 has got a gent of 15 stoppin in the kitchen and a boy nearly 14 and others in all she has got 6 sleeping in the one room boys and girls dont you think its time it was put a stop to and she cant leave no 13 alone so will you please write and tell them its not no 13 that writes down to the Town Hall but no 13 is coming down if its not stop or she is going to somming them for slander if its not put a stop to

"PIN-MONEY" EMPLOYMENT

A PLEA FOR BETTER CONDITIONS IN THE LIBRARY SERVICE

THE most urgent problem facing the library service to-day, according to Mr. Lionel R. McColvin, Borough Librarian of Hampstead, is that there is far too much underpaid, "pin-money," "blind-alley" employment in library work. In an address to the annual conference of the Library Association, he said: "There are far too many authorities employing assistants at wages upon which they cannot possibly be even keeping themselves and beyond which they have no prospects. This is a state of affairs very discreditable to the authorities concerned. These authorities *may* find it possible to engage a sufficiency of youngsters who either have no need to earn, or who are passing their time until they get married, or who hope, if they study, to secure decent posts elsewhere. But it is a very unsatisfactory method of recruiting a public service."

The Salaries Standard

In Mr. McColvin's opinion the present unsatisfactory state of the library service is due to a threefold neglect—neglect to envisage what a library service should be, neglect to relate conditions in librarianship to conditions in other fields, and neglect to recruit and reward staff upon an intelligent and standardised basis. The standard of library service, he declares, is much higher than the standard of salaries. "There is something about librarianship which stimulates the desire to serve for the sake of service. I don't say this is peculiar to librarianship; nevertheless librarianship is sufficiently interesting to provide its own compensations. Secondly, the library field is so highly specialised and small that movement into other fields is difficult. The qualifications of doctors, teachers and business men enable them, if they have ability, to range through a variety of types of employment; the librarian acquires knowledge which is special to library work and so, as a rule, he remains a librarian. But these two points are no justification for low salaries."

Suggested Grading System

Mr. McColvin urges that it should be laid down as a cardinal first principle that *all* who enter the library service should be assured, subject to satisfactory behaviour, of an adult living wage. For an authority to engage a junior knowing that he or she has no prospects is *wrong*. In other words, every library authority should have an initial, lowest, salary grade which proceeds automatically to a sum which will enable *every* member of the staff, male or female, to maintain himself, and perhaps a modest home, in decent circumstances.

The lowest grade suggested is the Grade A of the L.A. scale. Mr. McColvin adds: "It should be a first principle that *all* assistants, without any bar, as to qualifications or otherwise, should be able to reach its maximum. Until this principle is universally adopted by authorities we must suffer the recruitment of a large percentage of totally unsuitable people, and we must also suffer a cut-throat competition between the underpaid for the slightly better posts—a competition which must cheapen the market and cheapen the service."

The very first thing that should be done by every authority, which has not already done so, Mr. McColvin suggested, is to adopt Grade A, and place *every* junior member of its staff therein. Then they must adjust qualifications to responsibilities and opportunities better than they had done in the past. They needed a proper three-grade examination system. "So far as possible the same scale of salaries should be adopted by all library authorities. The immense range of systems, from those in the smallest towns to those in the big cities, does not, as might be imagined, render this impossible. The bigger towns provide more scope, need *more* people and offer rewards above and beyond the scale rates. That is all. The smallest library needs at least one fully qualified person, though its librarian might only be placed in Grade C.

"The adoption of national scales would benefit the public and the authorities no less than the profession. The effect of differing scales is permanently to limit the backward and smaller authorities to the less ambitious and less effective personnel. There are exceptions to every rule, but in general the best libraries, of all sizes, attract the best staff, whereas those which most need the benefit of skill, enthusiasm and personality do not offer sufficient inducement to attract or, at any rate, retain it. Much more important: any increase in the number of adequately paid positions would increase the *supply* of good men, to the obvious benefit of the library movement.

Women in the Service

"The L.A. recommendations apply equally, and without discrimination, to male and female assistants. I am sufficiently old-fashioned to regard it as more natural for a man to earn the maintenance of his home than for a woman to keep herself in lodgings. But I admit that women make good library assistants, and that there are many women who make better *librarians* than some men. Moreover, with present salaries, it is usually possible to attract a better type of girl recruit.

"Discrimination between the sexes must tend to lower conditions all round. Many authorities are simply exploiting on the economic status of women. It is the men who suffer. Give adequate salaries to both sexes and select the best available material, regardless of sex."

The Scale of Salaries is that adopted by N.A.L.G.O., with such suggestions as to grading as make it applicable to public libraries. In general terms it consists of three scales: (1) For application in the provinces generally, (2) for large provincial authorities, and (3) for London. The initial purpose of the scale is to indicate to all authorities the *sort* of salaries that good authorities are paying and that are necessary if a good service is to be provided.

Referring to the hours of work, Mr. McColvin contends that the 38-hour week is not unreasonable, and that assistants should be given as much free time in the evening as possible. Although they did not frame a specific recommendation on the point—because they knew that in many small libraries it was not at present practicable,—the Service Conditions Committee felt strongly that every assistant should have at least two free evenings each week, from 5 or 5.30, in addition to the half-day. A bad practice which they found to be not uncommon consists in reducing the total hours worked by lengthening the meal times excessively, assistants being given, for example, two hours for lunch and one and a half hours for tea. By this means the total hours *appear* to be reasonable, but of what use to assistants are these extended meal-times? None, unless they happen to want time to study.

Unpaid Assistants

One recommendation deals with unpaid pupil assistants. It is recommended that "with the sole exception of foreign and colonial librarians who are residents in the United Kingdom for a limited period, and students during the course of their studies at a recognised school of librarianship, unpaid assistants (pupil or otherwise) should not be allowed to work in rate-supported libraries. All employees of a library authority, whether temporary or permanent, should be paid not less than the scale rates."

Dealing with this recommendation, Mr. McColvin says: "We have only to consider the undesirable effect of allowing unpaid assistants to work in our libraries to appreciate the necessity for this recommendation. In the first place the practice defeats our recommendations regarding recruitment, which should be by open competition after public advertisement; it encourages back door entrance; it cheapens the service; it tempts the more backward authority to rely upon unpaid and underpaid assistance; it is unfair to the people concerned; it inflates the ranks of the profession; it is not fair to those who cannot afford to work for nothing; it enables unqualified people competing with regular employees to make spurious claim to practical experience; it is, in fact, a mean resort, to which, unless I am much mistaken, no other department of the public service has ever stooped."

THOMAS TELFORD AND N.A.L.G.O.

CIVIC engineers and surveyors all over the country have recently paid tribute to the memory of Thomas Telford who died a hundred years ago.

Telford's Tomb is in Westminster Abbey, but his monuments have become so useful to us all that we accept them and his genius as an act of nature. Telford built the Ellesmere Canal, the famous road from Shrewsbury to Holyhead—the Menai Bridge being an incidental. He constructed the Caledonian Canal, the St. Katharine's Dock, and he opened out the seaboard and the country for the benefit of British progress in over 400 major engineering works.

It was said that he had "advanced" this country by a century. There is encouragement in that fact to our present engineers and surveyors.

Telford was a bachelor. He did not have a house of his own until he was turned 60 years of age. Then he bought 24 Abingdon Street, Westminster—a charming house almost opposite the Houses of Parliament and in the very administrative nerve centre of this country. He wanted to be there to receive his foreign visitors and to be near Parliament where he had to spend so much of his later life in the Committee Rooms.

It is rather appropriate that this house and adjoining premises are the headquarters of the greatest organisation of public officers in the world—the National Association of Local Government Officers. N.A.L.G.O. is proud of its headquarters, and it continues that tradition of Thomas Telford of receiving all distinguished visitors from abroad who are interested in local government administration.

FOR ALL CLASSES OF
VACANT APPOINTMENTS
in the
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
See the Official Columns
of the
"MUNICIPAL JOURNAL"

OFFICERS' QUESTIONS IN MINISTRY'S ANNUAL REPORT

STRENGTHENING OF THE MEDICAL AND NURSING STAFFS URGED

THE annual report of the Ministry of Health seems to grow bulkier as the years advance. The report for the year ended March 31 last, which was issued recently, extends to nearly four hundred pages—a reflex of the expanding work of local authorities. As usual, considerable attention is devoted to matters particularly affecting officers. One of the main features of this year's report is a comprehensive survey of the public health services, and in this connection reference is made to the question of strengthening existing staffs.

Understaffing at Institutions

"It is sometimes difficult to say at what point the pressure of work distributed among a number of officers is sufficient to call for the services of an additional officer," the report states, "and the amount of time devoted to their duties by part-time officers responsible for the medical supervision of institutions appears to vary very considerably. It has, however, been a common criticism in the survey reports that there is a need for strengthening the medical and nursing staffs at the transferred institutions, and on the nursing side that there is in particular a need for a greater proportion of trained staff."

A hospital which is understaffed either in quality or in quantity cannot expect to produce the most satisfactory results and the Minister is of opinion that, where this question has not already been thoroughly reviewed, local authorities would be well advised to undertake such a review, and to obtain a report from their Medical Officer of Health on the adequacy and suitability of the nursing staff in relation to the needs of the hospital.

The Ministry regard it as important that each county council should take the necessary steps, as early as possible after the completion of the review under Section 46 of the Local Government Act, 1929, to secure that subsequent vacancies in the office of Medical Officer of Health for any district in the county shall be filled by an officer restricted by the terms of his appointment from engaging in private practice as a medical practitioner.

Housing Management

In some instances the management of municipal houses is vested in officers specially appointed for the purpose, including a woman manager or assistant trained on, or with experience of, the Octavia Hill system, while in other instances control is exercised by existing officers of the authority, sometimes in conjunction with the housing committee or a sub-committee. In this connection attention is called to the recommendations of the Moyne Committee with regard to the need for improved management and the appointment of specially trained women managers:

> We attach great importance to the employment wherever practicable of properly trained house property managers. We have no wish to exclude from this service trained men, but management on the Octavia Hill system involves assistance to the housewife in a number of different ways, and we think it, therefore, desirable that women house managers should usually be employed. The right kind of woman manager has a special aptitude for this class of work. Moreover, it will be appreciated that visits to the home are usually made when the husband is away at work.

It is probable that, as the slum clearance campaign proceeds and local authorities find themselves confronted with the problem of housing a number of tenants who have hitherto lived under extremely bad conditions and a proportion of whom may present special difficulty, the need for skilled management will become more widely recognised. The generality of municipal tenants have not hitherto been drawn from classes for whom any special methods of management were necessary.

Superannuation Schemes

During the year the Ministry approved the adoption of the Local Government and Other Officers' Superannuation Act, 1922, by 26 authorities, separately or in combination, and 130 agreements under Section 5 (3) of the Act by which authorities who have adopted the Act admit to its benefits officers and servants of other authorities or statutory undertakers. As a result of Orders made by the Minister under Section 46 of the Local Government Act, 1929, for the rearrangement of county districts, several local authorities which had come under the Act of 1922 ceased to exist. At March 31, 1934, the total number of local authorities who had adopted the Act, separately or in combination, was 493 (44 county councils, 56 county borough councils, 6 metropolitan borough councils, 82 borough councils, 180 urban district councils, 77 rural district councils and 48 miscellaneous authorities) and 729 admission agreements were in force. Approximately 217,000 officers and servants have been brought within the Act by means of the ordinary procedure described by the Act, and the total estimated annual cost to the local authorities (exclusive of administrative expenses) in respect of these officers and servants is approximately £2,068,000.

During the year the Minister approved seven schemes under Section 27 of the Widows', Orphans', and Old Age Contributory Pensions Act, 1925, reducing, in view of the contributions and benefits under that Act, the contributions and benefits of the Act of 1922. The total number of such schemes is now 44.

In pursuance of Section 19 of the Act, actuaries' reports on the investigation of 42 Superannuation Funds were received in 1933-34. In 6 reports a deficiency was disclosed and in 5 reports disposable surpluses were certified. In 6 cases a scheme dealing with such surplus or deficiency has been approved.

Compensation Appeals

As regards compensation, 32 appeals from persons aggrieved by the decisions of authorities on their claims for loss of office or emoluments under the Local Government Act, 1929, or the Rating and Valuation Act, 1925, were outstanding at April 1, 1933. During the year the department received 90 appeals under the former Act, 20 under the latter Act, 1 under the Land Drainage Act, 1930, and 7 under local Acts. Of these appeals 99 were disposed of and 7 were withdrawn. In 59 cases the decision of the Minister resulted in the award of a greater amount of compensation than that awarded by the compensating authorities, while in 7 the amount awarded by the authority was reduced.

When you picture yourself and others report you as being in a lunatic ward, attended by a sister and a medico who seem as though themselves should be certified; when primrose-haired and in a garment of anything but institution cut some sort of creature resembling yourself is seen dashing merrily along to somewhere, you begin to suspect that Rosalind Cornwall has made of you a decidedly "Dark Interval." Why you are in such a place, heaven alone can tell. You fight for liberty "like a savage," and are treated as one. It is the most unearthly time you have ever had, or anybody could have. But at last you've "ceased to be a lunatic," and with hysterical screech regain liberty. "How amusing!" Well, entertainment has varied forms. This is a startler. (Methuen, 7s. 6d.).

A WEAK SPOT

That is what Winter finds in one's constitution, and Winter is approaching. Common-sense care will minimise the risk but not entirely remove it. The expense of illness often absorbs savings required for other purposes.

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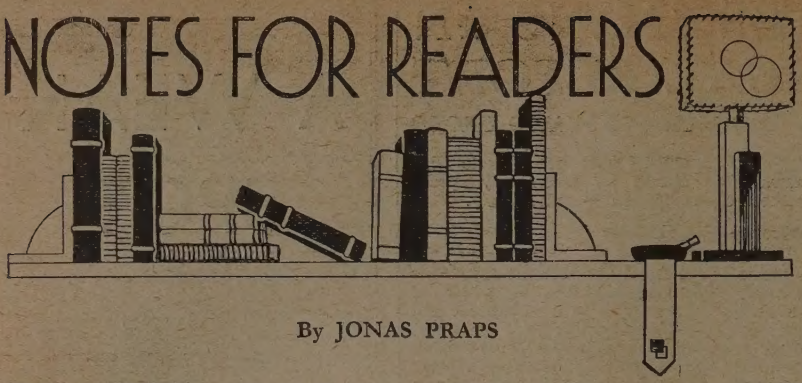
NOTES FOR READERS



By JONAS PRAPS

"RED SAUNDERS," by Sinbad (Harrap, 8s. 6d.), is a man's book. No kid-glove business and no love-making though the whole narrative is based on a disappointment in love. Red is a he-man who just about breaks-up a man across a billiards table because he finds him philandering with the lady of his choice: henceforth he is a pariah in society and seeks forgetfulness in a variety of thrilling episodes. He takes a part share in the schooner *Black Pearl*, and his dealings in pearl trading and other less easily marketable goods—including human beings—are by no means strictly legal. There is a fine description of a hurricane in Samoa; brilliantly vivid pictures of the havoc wrought, not only among the smaller native craft but the warships at anchor. "The sea became a white turmoil, levelled by sheer force of wind." Red's motto was "Trust in the Lord, learn boxing, and look out for bottles, broken or otherwise. You'll never make an enemy of a man by licking him if he's worth making a friend. That's philosophy, my son, learned in the college of hard thumping." Red's hand-fights are not the least interesting part of an entertaining piece of writing, be it biography or fiction.

Shades of Stevenson

Another man's book is "The Treasure of the Sierra Madre," by B. Traven (Chatto & Windus, 7s. 6d.). The narrative is based upon personal experience though written in the guise of fiction. The book has already been translated and published in five different languages and merits the distinction. Dobbs is out of work and exists by begging sufficient for a light meal at a chink's and a bed at a doss-house, dignified by the name of hotel. The scene is laid in Mexico, and after many odd jobs labouring and success with a lottery ticket, he and two others set out for gold. They were a strange trio, and had many adventures with Indians and bandits in the search for gold. "The gold that a beautiful woman wears on her finger, or a king in his crown, has been in strange company and washed in blood as often as in soap and water." The book is very well written—atmosphere, narrative and conversation alike good.

Of quite a different character from the two books I have already noted is "Blind Mouth," by Thomas F. Tweed (Barker, 8s. 6d.). It is a thought-stimulating book, and is, briefly, the story of a young man's faith in the gospel of gentleness and love as opposed to that of the more stereotyped ecclesiastical austerity. The youth has views of God which clash with those of the padre and Calvinistic minister, who, knowing his desire to become a medical man, find the means for his education, thus removing him from their midst. His success in this direction increases his opportunities of spreading the gospel he believes in and the influence it bore in political and social activities. It is not a book to be lightly skimmed, but it must not be assumed from this all too brief review that movement is lacking. The story is full of interest and intrigue, and is enlivened with many thrilling incidents.

The Americans must have done Mr. Mais well on his "broadcast" trip through the whole of the United States. In "A Modern Columbus" (Richard Cowan, 7s. 6d.), he gives his impressions of the country and its people: sometimes caustic, but generally appreciative. In San Francisco the people "actually walk—fast." They even "hike over their mountains at week-ends." Quite an entertaining volume.

Limey Again

"Limey" has turned from "gangstering" to the more prosaic and humdrum sphere of honest citizenship—pays his rates and exercises his vote. Before settling down, though, Mr. James Spencer tells us in "Limey Breaks In" (Longmans, 10s. 6d.) of his escapades before leaving England (doubtless for his country's good) for gangster life in the States. His English career would be good training for that life: ex-everything that was bad—burglar, convict, etc. Birmingham and London were the principal venues of his activities. Commencing by stealing a purse at eight years of age, he spent his time in and out of remand homes and industrial schools—from one of which he was "expelled." He graduated at Borstal, and completed his career of crime in Wandsworth and Dartmoor. It is to his credit that after this unpromising start he has now joined the ranks of the Honest Johns of England.

My readers will be interested in two other books of which I have space only for brief mention. "Secrets of Siberia" is a translation from the French of Pierre Dominique's "Siberie Rouge" (Hutchinson, 10s. 6d.), and is a personal narrative of present-day events in Siberia. It deals with the life of the peasantry and manual workers and outlines the efforts of the Soviet rulers towards mechanisation.

Mr. Frank Pollard, in "All in the Downs" (Constable, 7s. 6d.), gives in story form a humorous and satirical picture of life in the navy in the eighteenth century. It is of the rollicking type, and Mr. Pollard will be welcomed by many fiction readers satiated with mystery and murder.

MR. FINCHLEY DISCOVERS HIS ENGLAND

Mr. Finchley, lawyer's clerk, set out to spend a conventional three weeks' holiday at Margate. But he was not to see the Kentish resort; instead he was to spend twenty-one days crammed with astonishing and amusing adventure. The cause of it all was the lack of a penny. He had £50 in notes in his wallet, but one cannot very well hand a pound note to a 'bus conductor for a penny fare, and so Mr. Finchley set out to walk to the station. How in the course of his walk he is spirited away in a magnificent Bentley by a desperate gangster, is kept a prisoner for some days, and eventually escapes to find himself at Bristol, makes amusing reading. From Bristol he starts on a tour of Somerset, Devon, and Cornwall, living with gypsies, working as pumpman at a garage, acting as showman at a fair, fleeing for his life on Dartmoor when he is mistaken for an escaped lunatic, finding himself in a casual ward, acting unwittingly as assistant to a smuggler, and so on. "Mr. Finchley Discovers His England" (Hodder and Stoughton, London, 7s. 6d.) is first-rate reading. The author, Mr. Victor Lanning, is a member of the staff of the Ely County Council, and previously held positions with the Oxford City Council and the Somerset County Council. There is some fine descriptive writing, for the author clearly knows the south-west corner of England.

LEEDS COLLEGE OF COMMERCE

The Leeds College of Commerce, one of the leading technical colleges of the country, is organised to provide both day and evening courses, and the facilities offered cover practically the whole field of commercial training. The prospectus for the winter session, 1934-35, indicates the wide range of tuition provided. In the department of professional training candidates are prepared for examinations of the National Association of Local Government Officers.

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Telephone: Victoria 8592 (6 lines).
Telegrams: Natassoc, Parl, London.

HEADQUARTERS AND BRANCHES

The following circulars have been issued to branch honorary secretaries from headquarters:—

AUGUST 29.

Circular No. 69/1934.
(To secretaries of County and County Borough branches.)
Requesting information regarding the payment of wages or salary during sickness to transferred Poor Law Officers.

SEPTEMBER 13.

Circular No. 70/1934.
(To local correspondents of *Logomia*.)
Regarding the transaction of business direct with headquarters and enclosing a letter on this subject for distribution among members.
Circular No. 70a/1934.
Enclosing copy of Circular No. 70 and enclosure for information.
Circular No. 72/*Gen.*/1934.
(*a*) Stating that two model lectures on Local Government are available.
(*b*) Regarding the 1935 Centenary Celebrations.

YOUR 1935 Diary

The N.A.L.G.O. Diary will be on sale early in November. It is better than ever.

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(*c*) Concerning the Centenary Cruise to northern capitals and the reservation of berths.
(*d*) Enclosing a copy of a letter which is about to be sent to the Town Clerks or Clerks to the Councils throughout the country.
Circular No. 73/*HYS*/1934.
(To branch secretaries, district committee secretaries, members of the National Executive Council, Benevolent and Orphan Fund Management Committee and Regional Committees.)
Regarding the sale of *Help Yourself Annuals*.

IMPORTANT DATES

Oct. 1.—Payment of subscriptions for year should be completed. Branch to issue official receipts for all subscriptions paid up by monthly instalments. Members' subscription cards to be exchanged for receipts.

„ 31.—Branches to remit all moneys due to the association to headquarters. Summary sheets to be forwarded to headquarters as soon as possible. District committees to furnish financial statements to headquarters.

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:

A. Wotherspoon, M.B., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health, Stoke-on-Trent.

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:

Cecil G. Brown, LL.B., Ex-Town Clerk, Cardiff.

VICE-PRESIDENTS:

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W. E. Lloyd, F.S.A.A., Borough Treasurer, Hampstead.

HONORARY TREASURER:

W. E. Lloyd, F.S.A.A., Borough Treasurer, Hampstead.

HONORARY SOLICITORS:

England—P. H. Harrold, Town Clerk, Hampstead.

Wales—D. J. Parry, M.A., B.Sc., Solicitor to the Glamorgan C.C.

Scotland—G. S. Fraser, M.A., B.L., Town Clerk, Aberdeen.

TRUSTEES:

H. Begg, F.R.C.V.S., County Veterinary Inspector, Lanarkshire C.C.

S. Lord, F.I.M.T.A., F.S.A.A., Borough Treasurer, Acton.

W. H. Whinnerah, A.C.I.S., Secretary, Paving, Sewering and Highways Department, Manchester.

GENERAL SECRETARY: L. Hill.

LEGAL SECRETARY AND INSURANCE SECRETARY: J. Simonds, M.A., Barrister-at-Law.

ACCOUNTANT: H. G. Baker.

ORGANISING SECRETARY: W. P. Fox.

EDUCATION SECRETARY: H. Slater, A.C.I.S.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES, DEPARTMENTAL SECRETARY: H. Wright.

DIVISIONAL SECRETARIES:

Metropolitan and Eastern Districts and London County Council Branch—T. M. Kershaw, 24 Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.1. Telephone: Victoria 8592.

North-Western and North Wales District—Haden Corser, 22 Booth Street, Manchester. Telephone: Central 5257.

North-Eastern and Yorkshire Districts—J. B. Swinden, 12 East Parade, Leeds. Telephone: Leeds 24861.

East Midlands, West Midlands and South Wales Districts—J. E. N. Davis, York House, Great Charles Street, Birmingham. Telephone: Central 1836.

South-Eastern, Southern and South-Western Districts—F. Thomas, Room 60, Somerset House, Reading. Telephone: Reading 3880.

Scottish—J. M. Mortimer, 135 Wellington Street, Glasgow. Telephone: Douglas 404.

Have you obtained particulars of the 1935 Centenary Cruise?

Baltic—Russia—Germany

Apply to:—L. Hill, General Secretary, N.A.L.G.O., 24, Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

HOLIDAY GUIDE

Recommended Addresses

If you have enjoyed a good holiday at an address not contained in the N.A.L.G.O. Official Guide, do your fellow members a good turn for next season by sending the address to Headquarters for inclusion in the 1935 issue.

SALARIES AND SERVICE CONDITIONS

Salary Deductions

Since the September issue of LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE was published the following notifications have been received with regard to salary deductions:—

Terminations

Anglesey County Council.
Wenlock Borough Council.

Superannuation

As a result of the questionnaire which was sent to all local authorities recently, it has been ascertained that the following have adopted schemes as from the dates mentioned.

Urban Districts.—Kingsbridge, 1/4/34.

Rural Districts.—Alton, 1/10/34; Ampthill, 1/10/34; Ashford, West, 1/7/34; Bowlands, 1/1/35; Deben, 1/1/33; Hatfield, 1/10/34; Hinckley, 1/1/34; Long Ashton, 1/7/34; Milton, 1/4/34; Northwich, 1/1/34; Pewsey, 1/4/33; Tendring, 26/6/34; Watford, 1/4/34; Wigan, 1/1/34; Wycombe, 1/4/34.

NALGO STAFF ASSOCIATION DANCE

AT THAMES HOUSE RESTAURANT ON NOVEMBER 6, 1934

Tickets, 2/6 each, can be obtained from The Honorary Secretary, 24, Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

"HELP YOURSELF" ANNUAL

This very popular publication will be on sale on Monday, October 8th, and copies can be obtained from the Branch secretaries, price 2s. 6d. It is good value for the money, and each purchaser will participate in a free distribution of 2,000 gifts valued at £20,000. Last year 100 of these gifts were allocated to persons who purchased their Annuals through N.A.L.G.O.

The Association's Benevolent and Orphan Fund benefits to the extent of nearly £3,000 by selling these Annuals each year. It is hoped to do so again this year, and members are advised to order copies from the Branch secretaries at once as they are disposed of very quickly.

HOLIDAY CENTRES RE-UNION

Make a note of these dates:

London—Saturday, February 16, 1935, at Harrods Restaurant, Knightsbridge, S.W. Commencing 7 p.m. Tickets 2s. 6d.

Manchester—Saturday, March 23, 1935, at the Manchester Limited Restaurant, Exchange Buildings. Commencing 7 p.m. Tickets (inclusive of refreshments), 2s. 6d.

Tickets obtainable from N.A.L.G.O., 24 Abingdon Street, London, S.W.1.

COST OF LIVING

Below, we give the average monthly percentage increase over the level of July, 1914, in the Cost of Living Index for the past six months: April, 39; May, 37; June, 38; July, 41; August, 42; September, 43; the percentage increases in each of the five groups on which the Index Figure is based are as follows:

	July	Aug.	Sept.
Food	22	23	26
Rent	56	56	56
Clothing ..	90	90	90
Fuel and light ..	70	70	70
Other items ..	75	75	75

Local Government Service

Editorial and Advertisement Offices, 3 and 4 Clement's Inn, Strand, London, W.C.2.

Telephone: Holborn 2288-2289.

Contributions on topical Local Government problems are invited and will receive careful consideration, but the Editor cannot accept responsibility for the safety of manuscripts submitted for his consideration.

Authoritative local news on matters having more than a purely local interest is welcomed.

Legal and other inquiries relating to Local Government will be answered promptly.

All communications should be addressed to THE EDITOR.

AN ATTACK ON N.A.L.G.O. AND OUR REPLY

MANY of our readers may have read in the Press what looked like a mild attack on N.A.L.G.O. at the Trades Union Congress at Weymouth. According to the report before us, the National Union of Public Employees called attention to the growth of Associations in the Local Government Service "to the detriment of the Unions affiliated to the Trades Union Congress." The General Council, in conjunction with the N.U.P.E. and others concerned, it was proposed, should embark upon a campaign of recruitment of public employees who were not at present members of Unions affiliated to the Trades Union Congress.

Mr. Bryn Roberts Speaks

Mr. Bryn Roberts, N.U.P.E., is reported to have said that the growth of these Associations had reached such a stage as to warrant the serious attention of Congress. N.A.L.G.O., he asserted, could not be described as a professional, semi-professional, or officers' Association, as its 74,000 members were drawn from all grades of the Service, and he claimed that thousands of members of this Association should be in affiliated Unions.

After the motion had been supported by a representative of the National Union of Clerks, it was pointed out that the question was already receiving the attention of the General Council, and the matter was left there.

But it is just as well that Local Government Officers should know a little more about the origin of this move.

According to a report in the *Aberdare Leader* on June 16 last, the Aberdare Trades Council received a deputation consisting of Mr. Bryn Roberts and Mr. Jack Atkins, a fellow organiser of N.U.P.E., who asked for a resolution of the Trades Council to support them in fighting alleged "poaching proclivities of the scab organisation N.A.L.G.O. among N.U.P.E. members." N.U.P.E., it was claimed, carried out the principles of the T.U.C. and the National Labour Party. On the other hand, it was said, "N.A.L.G.O. was a huge organisation throughout the country which was attempting to stamp out *bona fide* trade unionism wherever it existed, was not associated with the T.U.C. or the National Labour Party, and was not entitled to be, even if it desired, because its rules and constitution did not conform with the principles laid down by the Labour Party."

Mr. Atkins

It is rather interesting to recall at this juncture that Mr. Atkins was formerly a full-time organiser of the National Union of County Officers, but on February 1, 1932, he became a part-time officer only. About this time Mr. Atkins was interviewed by the Executive Committee of N.U.P.E.—a rival Union to N.U.C.O.—and it is reported in the official journal of the latter Union that "an agreement was reached whereby Mr. Atkins would be continued (by N.U.P.E.) as a whole-time organiser, providing he could take over a minimum of 300 of N.U.C.O.'s members."

N.A.L.G.O. apparently is anathema because it is a "non-pol." It is a "scab" organisation because Local Government Officers wish to choose their own method of organisation. N.A.L.G.O. is equally disliked by the National Union of County Officers because it is a "non-political" organisation.

Envying N.A.L.G.O

It is a rich treat to read the regular and consistent attacks upon N.A.L.G.O. in the official journals of N.U.P.E. and N.U.C.O. Both Unions do so little for Local Government Officers that they have quite a lot of space available for attacking N.A.L.G.O. The National Union of County Officers is the bigger culprit in that sense. It seems to have a good deal of time to spend in envying N.A.L.G.O.'s successful activities.

It is comforting to know that two Unions which have just "flown into our eye" are not representative of the Trade Union movement, and that the leaders of the T.U.C. are not impressed by such tactics. To the Trade Union movement, and to their own cause in particular, they are doing a disservice, because Local Government Officers have sufficient intelligence to realise that their interests cannot be served by any organisation which resorts to cheap and nasty tactics.

No Party Politics

This tirade against N.A.L.G.O. because it does not join the T.U.C. is being overdone in some quarters, and it may not be out of place to tell the country once more that N.A.L.G.O. does not intend to join either the T.U.C., the Labour Party, the Conservative Party, or the Liberal Party. It is an organisation of public servants, and it has no right to take sides in party politics.

Though local authorities are elected on a party political basis, those who are engaged in whole-time administrative duties must not belong officially to any one party. Indeed, no party has a right to expect whilst it is in power more than the faithful and whole-hearted service of Local Government Officers. It will be a bad day for this country when its public servants become part of any political organisation.

If any one of our political parties is not satisfied with an impartial, efficient and loyal Local Government Service, then it must show its hand and tell the country what it really does want from its public servants. Leave party politics out of the picture, and N.A.L.G.O. can teach many "Pol. Unions" how to do Trade-Union work with success. The secret of N.A.L.G.O.'s success is the internal realisation that it must get on with its own job, and by doing that it has no time to watch what others are doing or to think ill of anyone.

Not Guilty

Of the charge of "poaching"—a term which we interpret as meaning stealing other Unions' members—N.A.L.G.O. is not guilty. It has never "poached" members, and resents the charge. It has often said to groups of persons employed in Local Government that their place is in an Employees' Union, not because it takes on any superiority nonsense, but because it respects other Unions' territory.

N.A.L.G.O. has found it difficult at times to decide who is an officer as distinct from a workman, and this problem will be with us so long as local authorities do not make a clear distinction between the two classes. When all local authorities have drawn the line of demarcation between "officer" and "workman," N.A.L.G.O. will have no difficulty in knowing its membership limitations.

SECOND THOUGHTS

"Originally I was opposed to the principle of superannuation and I voted against the scheme when it was adopted by the county; but if I had to go back to those days I should vote for superannuation. They know that the best officers naturally go to the authorities that had adopted superannuation, and I contend, therefore, that authorities who did not adopt the system are not doing their best for the people they represent. On that ground alone I am perfectly certain that the adoption of the scheme is the right line for us to take."

Ald. Lt.-Col. W. E. Harrison, chairman of the Staffordshire County Council, reported in the Wolverhampton *Express and Star*.

Verb. sap.

SCOTTISH COMPENSATION CASE

CARNEGIE v. ROXBURGH COUNTY COUNCIL : LORD CARMONT'S INTERLOCUTOR

Lord Carmont's interlocutor in the case of Carnegie v. the County Council of Roxburgh was issued too late for publication in our September issue. Appended is the opinion in full.

THE Pursuer was Inspector of Poor under Melrose Parish Council, and among other offices he also held that of Collector of Rates for Melrose Parish. Two questions arise in this action against the County of Roxburgh. First, the pursuer seeks declarator that having been transferred to the County Council under the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1929, his employment as a transferred officer has not been validly terminated by the defenders, or, alternatively, in the event of its being held that the said employment was validly terminated, that the defenders were bound to assess compensation to him for loss of office under the said Act.

The second question raised is whether the pursuer is now entitled to be paid by the defenders £66 13s. 4d. annually, being the compensation awarded to him for loss of office as Collector of Rates for Melrose Parish on the passing of the Rating (Scotland) Act, 1926.

As regards the first question, the defenders maintained in the procedure roll, that, the pursuer's averments being irrelevant, the action should be dismissed. They also submitted on a correspondence (in support of their fifth plea) that the office of Inspector of Poor has been abolished and that, in any event, the pursuer is barred in respect of an agreement to terminate existing offices on condition of being appointed to other offices under the defenders. This agreement, they say, has been implemented.

I would be prepared to hold that there was on the correspondence no "*abolition*" of the office of Inspector of Poor such as is contemplated by section 27 (4) of the Rating (Scotland) Act, 1926. It does not seem to me material that, when making an appeal to the Secretary of State for Scotland, the pursuer should have stated that the office had been abolished. No prejudice was sustained by the defenders in respect of the pursuer's representation. There is no renunciation of proof by the parties and I will not repel the defenders' fifth plea having regard to the course I propose to take on the rest of the case.

As regards the alleged agreement to terminate the pursuer's employment in one capacity on condition of obtaining another appointment under the defenders, the pursuer avers that this agreement was based on essential error common to both parties, *viz.*, that he was entitled to have compensation assessed in respect of his loss of the former office which he held *ad vitam aut culpam*, although it was recognised that the payment of compensation might have to be suspended while he drew emoluments from the new office equal to or greater than those payable under the old. The defenders represented this to be an error in law which could not be founded on to effect the pursuer's relief. I am not satisfied that the question whether a statute applies to the case of a particular individual is a pure question of law, but, in any event, even assuming that it is so, if both parties make an agreement based on the same erroneous view as to the meaning and application of a statute, the agreement can, in my opinion, be set aside on the ground of that common error. There seems to be no authority directly in point, but the case of *Mercer* v. *Anstruther* (1871, 9 M. 618, at p. 628) seems to me to support the view I have expressed. I can, however, hardly accept the pursuer as being in the position of one gratuitously giving up his rights under error in law, and such cases as *McCaig* v. *University of Glasgow* (1904, 6 F. 918), which were cited, cannot be used, I think, to support the pursuer's case.

It was suggested in the defenders' argument that reduction was not competent in as much as *restitutio in integrum* could not be made. The defenders have no plea to this effect and I can see no insuperable difficulty in restitution taking place if need be. Whether the compensation to the pursuer which was *ex hypothesi* contemplated by the parties when entering into the agreement as regards old and new offices could be assessed at nil in the circumstances depends on the facts of the case, and I do not express any view upon that question.

I shall therefore allow the pursuer a proof before answer on this branch of his case.

Turning to the other branch of the case, the parties were agreed that it involves consideration of the Rating (Scotland) Act, 1926, section 27 (9), and the Second Schedule, and section 120 (7) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1889. In consequence of the coming into operation of the Rating (Scotland) Act, 1926, the pursuer lost his office as Collector of Rates for Melrose Parish. He claimed compensation from the County Council under the said Act in respect of his direct pecuniary loss and had it assessed at £66 13s. 4d. per annum. This amount was paid to him for some time (and, I think, rightly) notwithstanding that he continued to act as Inspector of Poor for Melrose.

He was then transferred as Inspector of Poor, by the operation of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1929, to the County Council. The County Council continued to pay the compensation money, but have now ceased to do so, alleging that, in the position which the pursuer now stands to them, the provisions of section 120 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1889, operate to prevent compensation being paid at the same time as he draws certain emoluments from them.

The pursuer's right to draw compensation is, they contend, meantime suspended as the result of the application of section 120, sub-section 7, of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1889, to his case by the operation of the Rating (Scotland) Act, 1926, section 27 (9) and the Second Schedule thereof. Section 120, sub-section 7, of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1889, provides that if a person receiving compensation is appointed to any office under *inter alios* the same County Council as pays him compensation he shall not, while receiving the emoluments of office, receive any greater amount of compensation than equals the amount of the lost emolument for which compensation was granted. If the new office salary is equal to or greater than the old office salary for which compensation is payable, compensation is suspended while the person holds the new office.

The pursuer points out that under the Second Schedule of the Rating (Scotland) Act, 1926, section 120 must be read subject to certain specified modifications "and any other necessary modifications." The first specified modification is that references to County Councils shall be construed as references to the "rating authority liable in payment to the officer . . . of compensation." The pursuer argues that payments of this compensation do not fall to be suspended under section 120 (7) as modified, unless he has received an appointment by the defenders as *a rating authority to a rating office.*

I do not favour this view, and think that the legislature had in view the authority as a compensating body and not as a rating authority. The pursuer argues alternatively and in any event that, having been awarded compensation as a part-time official (Inspector of Poor of Parish of Melrose) it is not proper to equiparate this with some single new office under the defenders, but that the whole former offices should be set against his whole new offices. It is said that his financial position so brought out would not extinguish the compensation but still leave him entitled to a proportion of his compensation. As at present advised, I see nothing in the statute to warrant such a course being followed.

I do not propose, however, to express any concluded opinion on either branch of the second head of the pursuer's summons, because it appears to me that the cardinal feature of section 120, subsection 7, of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1889, is "appointment" by the defenders to offices under them. That means a valid appointment, and the parties are in dispute on the first branch of the case as to whether a valid appointment of the pursuer as Inspector of Public Assistance has ever been made. Until this matter is cleared up and the exact position of the pursuer as a transferred officer settled, it would be, to say the least, highly inexpedient to express any definite view as to the application of section 120 (7) to the pursuer. I shall therefore send this branch of the case also to proof before answer.

OLDHAM BRANCH CRUISE

OLDHAM ran their second Oldham Wakes sea cruise by the British India Steam Navigation Company's S.S. *Modasa*, a vessel of 11,000 tons. The *Modasa* left Tilbury on Wakes Saturday afternoon for Hamburg, Antwerp and Dundee with a full complement of 193 passengers. The party made a complete tour of Hamburg by motor coaches with a visit to the Elbe Tunnel and Hagenbeck's Zoo. The night in Hamburg was spent in a tour round the brilliantly illuminated amusement quarters of St. Pauli. Hamburg was left on the Tuesday evening and Antwerp reached on Thursday morning. An excursion was undertaken to Middleburg, Holland, where the visitors were given a civic reception in the Town Hall.

At Middleburg the Ringrijderij was in progress. This event takes place on the last Thursday in August and Dutch peasant boys in their old costumes ride heavy plough horses bare backed in a game of tilting the ring. While the horses canter round the riders have to slip their lances through small metal rings suspended in the air. The one who gathers most rings is the winner. The horses' manes and tails are decorated with flowers and the event is regarded as the most important of the summer season.

The party left Antwerp on Friday for Dundee, which was reached on Sunday morning, September 2. While the steamer was at sea the usual deck games were held, the horse racing being particularly attractive. Three concerts were given by specially engaged artistes, Mr. Hamilton Harris (bass), Mr. William Bernard (tenor), Mr. Albert Kinsey (raconteur) and Miss Nancy Harris (solo pianoforte and accompanist). The fancy dress parade was a brilliant success, many of the characters being weird and novel. Passengers were conveyed to and from the steamer by special dining-car saloon trains.

That an expert in criminal investigation not unknown at Scotland Yard should bear the name of McLean seems quite good as a start. Why that same Mac on the last page of a thriller should go holidaying to "*one* of his native haunts," is not quite so clear, much less to become a sportive hunter of bugs in Scotland! But between the two events is spread a conspiracy of the most engaging entertainment wherein the notorious flasher "K" is laid to heel and the redoubtable "McLean Plays a Hand." This makes up Mr. George Goodchild's latest novel. (3s. 6d., Ward, Lock & Co.)

SCOTTISH NOTES

THESE notes are being written in the capital of the Highlands, where Mr. Hill, the General Secretary, and Mr. Mortimer, the D.S., have arrived in the course of their propaganda tour of Scotland, and where to-night (September 18) they are having a meeting with the local officials and later a conference with the Town Council and representatives of the County Council on the question of Superannuation. Up till now meetings have been held in Ayr, Castle Douglas where a new branch was established for Kirkcudbright, in Stranraer where a new branch for Wigtonshire was set on foot, and in Aberdeen where there was an excellent meeting. Mr. Hill also attended the annual sports day at Bridge of Allan, and addressed the company when they met at tea in the evening. So far good success has attended these meetings, and there is no doubt that the branches have been stimulated and encouraged.

Superannuation

Greenock Town Council has now been added to the list of towns that have adopted a Superannuation Scheme. The list now comprises six County Councils and ten Burghs, and five authorities have now the subject under consideration. We hope to add these five to the list at an early date.

Annual Sports Day

The Annual Sports Day held at Bridge of Allan on September 15 was most enjoyable. The weather was ideal, and everyone seemed thoroughly to enjoy the event. Mr. Hugh Begg presided at the distribution of prizes, and was supported by Provost and Mrs. Dunbar, Dr. and Mrs. Macgregor, of Glasgow, Mr. A. G. M. Archibald, Mr. Alexander Morrison (Town Clerk) and Mrs. Morrison, Mr. L. Hill, Mr. Mortimer, and Mr. S. H. Brodie, the sports secretary. Mrs. Dunbar presented the prizes to the winners of the various competitions. The list of winners is as follows:—

Gents' Golf (2 rounds): Scratch Trophy and Prize, Robert Martin, South Eastern Borders Branch (135). Handicap, 1st prize, C. S. MacDonald, Glasgow Branch (136); 2nd prize, R. A. Govier, Glasgow Branch (137).

Ladies' Golf (1 round): Trophy and Prize, Miss Jean Marshall, Dumbartonshire Branch (76).

Tennis (Mixed Doubles): Trophy and Prizes: Miss E. Gauld, Aberdeen, Banff and Kincardine Branch; Mr. Jas. G. MacKenzie, Dumbartonshire Branch.

Bowling: Trophy and Prizes: Glasgow City Collector's Rink (33 shots up): Messrs. D. Campbell (skip), J. Brown, W. Henderson, and W. Smith. Runners-up Prizes: Glasgow Improvements Department Rink (18 shots up), Messrs. J. Macfarlane (skip), J. Cumming, A. Luthwood, and J. Shearer.

N.A.L.G.O. BUILDING SOCIETY

EXTENSION OF REPAYMENTS

AN important extension has been made in the N.A.L.G.O. Building Society's house-purchase facilities. Members can now borrow up to 90 per cent. of the value of a property and spread the repayments over twenty-five years. The maximum term of repayments has previously been twenty years, and the extension will be of particular benefit to the younger member who finds it imperative when first setting up a home of his own to keep his financial commitments as low as possible. The calendar monthly repayments per £100 advanced at 5 per cent. are as follows:

Term of Repayment.	*Monthly Repayment.* s.	d.
20 years	13	5
21 ,,	13	0
22 ,,	12	8
23 ,,	12	4
24 ,,	12	1
25 ,,	11	10

Taking an example of a house valued at £700, the Society would advance £630 at 5 per cent. repayable over twenty-five years, the calendar monthly repayment for which would be £3 14s. 7d., equalling 17s. 3d. per week. Assuming that the rates amounted to 5s. per week, the member would be buying his house for a weekly outlay of 22s. 3d.

Where more than 90 per cent. of the value of a property is advanced the repayments cannot be spread over more than twenty years. In approved cases the Society is prepared to advance 100 per cent. of the value, which has proved of great benefit to many members with a small capital. The rate of interest remains at 5 per cent. If £700 were advanced for twenty years the monthly repayment would be £4 13s. 11d., equalling £1 1s. 8d. per week.

WHEN TO BUY

Since the Society was formed members have taken full advantage of the excellent facilities provided for purchasing houses on the best possible terms. Nearly 1,700 members have been granted mortgages, and the assets of the Society now exceed £1,000,000. This remarkable progress has been made in a little more than two years.

Members who contemplate buying houses are strongly advised to do so during the next few months. It is natural for a person to be more interested in house purchase during the spring and summer, but the wisest plan is to buy when the market is in one's favour, which, of course, is during the autumn and winter, when the demand is lowest.

Arrangements have been made at headquarters for speedy consideration to be given to all applications. The first step for a member to take after selecting his house is to obtain an application form, either from the Local Correspondent or direct from Headquarters. A survey fee based on the following scale should be forwarded with the form:

Amount of Loan.	*Survey Fee.*
Up to £250	£1 1 0
Over £250 but not exceeding £500	£1 11 6
Over £500 but not exceeding £750	£2 2 0
Over £750	£2 12 6

A surveyor values the properties within a few days, the borrower is advised shortly afterwards of the amount the Society will advance, and the Society's solicitors then complete the necessary legal formalities as quickly as possible.

FREE ADVICE

Every member has problems to solve in connection with house purchase, and Headquarters can be of great assistance in advising members. Advice can be sought without any obligation whatever. The object of forming the N.A.L.G.O. Building Society was to enable members of the Association to purchase their houses on the best possible terms and to render them the maximum service. The great success of the Society is evidence that these intentions have been fulfilled.

MANCHESTER LECTURES ON PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

The programme of lectures on public administration to be held at the Manchester Central Library, under the auspices of the Manchester and District Area Education Committee of N.A.L.G.O. and the Manchester Regional Branch of the Institute of Public Administration Joint Committee, lacks neither interest nor variety. On October 25, Mr. L. Hill, General Secretary of N.A.L.G.O., is to speak on "The Study of Public Administration." Professor G. W. Daniels, Dean of the Faculty of Commerce and Administration, Manchester University, will preside. "The Relations Between the Official and the Elected Representative," is the subject of an address to be given by Lady (Ernest) Simon, late chairman of the Manchester Education Committee, on December 6, when Mr. J. G. Maddain, C.B.E., Postmaster Surveyor of Manchester, will preside. Dr. I. G. Gibbon, C.B.E., Ministry of Health, will be the speaker on January 31, when he will discuss the question of the relations between central and local government. The last lecture will be given on March 14, by Dr. W. Ivor Jennings, on "A Century of Local Government in Retrospect." Sir William E. Hart; O.B.E., LL.D., will preside. Each lecture will commence at 7.15 p.m.

£46,131

IS THE AMOUNT WHICH A QUINQUENNIAL VALUATION HAS RECENTLY DISCLOSED CAN BE SPENT BY THE

Nalgo Approved Society

ON ADDITIONAL BENEFITS DURING THE FIVE YEARS COMMENCING 1st JANUARY, 1935.

JOIN A SOCIETY WHICH GIVES THE BEST BENEFITS

OFFICIAL AND PERSONAL

We regret to record the death of two prominent South Wales officials who for many years had given valuable support to the Association—Mr. W. R. Morgan, M.B.E., Clerk and Solicitor to the Aberdare Urban District Council; and Mr. Alfred Thomas, Deputy Clerk of the Carmarthen County Council and Deputy Clerk of the Peace for Carmarthenshire. Mr. Morgan was President of the Aberdare Branch. Mr. Alfred Thomas had been Chairman of the Branch, had attended a number of annual conferences of the Association, and was frequently a delegate to the District Committee.

* * *

On the occasion of his retirement from the Town Clerkship of Southgate, Mr. A. E. Lauder was the recipient of a presentation from the members of the local branch of N.A.L.G.O. Mr. W. E. George, Deputy Town Clerk, and president of the branch, who presided, said the staff would be losing a valuable colleague. Mr. Lauder had spent more than forty years in the local government service, and during his time at Southgate the thing that had impressed everybody was that he had always been accessible to the members of the staff, from the highest to the lowest, and he had always been ready with help and advice. Tributes to Mr. Lauder were also paid by Mr. Robert Phillips, Borough Surveyor; Dr. W. Clunie Harvey, Medical Officer of Health; Mr. H. L. Hews, Rating and Valuation Officer, and Mr. J. B. Stubbs.

* * *

The death has occurred of Mr. J. F. Preece, Borough Librarian of St. Pancras, at the early age of 44 years. He was the son of Mr. G. Preece, O.B.E., the former Borough Librarian of Stoke Newington, and was appointed by the St. Pancras Borough Council as a junior library assistant in July, 1906. After serving as a branch librarian from October, 1914, to August, 1922, he was in the latter year appointed Borough Librarian. He was a Fellow of the Library Association, and was recognised by members of his profession as an authority on book classification and cataloguing. His advice on literary matters was always readily placed at the disposal of his colleagues. Mr. Preece served on the Branch Executive Committee for a considerable period. He leaves a widow and two young children.

* * *

The Wallasey Branch have recently suffered very severely through the deaths of prominent members. Mr. C. W. Kelly (Branch Treasurer) died in February, and Mr. H. T. Irving, a keen member and an ex-member of the Executive Committe, passed away in June. On August 4, Mr. Wm. Wood, who had been at the office in the morning, died with tragic suddenness in his home the same evening. Mr. Wood had been chairman of the Branch for three years, and members of the North-Western District Committee will remember his speeches on two or three occasions on the question of N.A.L.G.O.'s activities and a national minimum scale of salaries. Mrs. Boucher, wife of the Borough Treasurer, died after a short illness on August 11. Deepest sympathy not only of the Branch but of the whole of the members of N.A.L.G.O., is extended to the families concerned.

* * *

On July 26, Mr. Wm. Evans, Deputy Borough Treasurer, completed fifty years' service with the Wallasey Corporation and their predecessors. Congratulations were offered to Mr. Evans at a meeting of the Wallasey Council held the same day, and occasion was taken by the Borough Treasurer to present to him, on behalf of the staff, a gold wristlet watch. By a coincidence, on the same day, Alderman Augustine Quinn, J.P., celebrated his eighty-seventh birthday, and the Mayor of Wallasey extended to Alderman Quinn congratulations on behalf of himself and his fellow-members. Alderman Quinn has for several years been a member of the Lancashire and Cheshire Provincial Whitley Council, representing the Cheshire County Boroughs.

The late Mr. W. R. MORGAN, M.B.E., Clerk and Solicitor to Aberdare U.D.C.

* * *

We have to record with regret the death of Mr. George G. Bouchier, Town Clerk of Heywood and Clerk to the Heywood Borough Bench. Mr. Bouchier became Town Clerk in 1901, but previously had held other public offices. His entire public service covered half a century. Mr. Bouchier was the first President of the Heywood Branch of N.A.L.G.O., and took a great interest in the welfare of the Branch.

* * *

A movement is on foot for an expression of public appreciation of the distinguished service rendered to the town by Mr. W. H. Hickson during the thirty years that he has been Town Clerk of Rochdale. The presentation is to take the form of a portrait of Mr. Hickson similar to those which have been presented in the past to several ex-mayors and other distinguished citizens of the borough.

* * *

Mr. James Green, assistant director of Education for Wigan, has this year passed the LL.B degree examination for external candidates at London University. Mr. Green served on the staff of the Birkenhead Education Committee before taking up his present appointment in 1930. He is a member of N.A.L.G.O.

SOUTH WALES AND MONMOUTHSHIRE DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Mr. Thomas Evans (Rhondda) presided over a largely attended meeting of the South Wales and Monmouthshire District Committee of N.A.L.G.O. at the Osborne Hotel, Langland Bay, Swansea, on September 15. He referred to the recent deaths of two prominent Local Government Officers and members of N.A.L.G.O. in South Wales, Mr. W. R. Morgan, M.B.E., Clerk and Solicitor to the Aberdare Urban District Council; and Mr. Alfred Thomas, Deputy Clerk of the Carmarthen County Council and Deputy Clerk of the Peace for Carmarthenshire. A vote of condolence to their relatives was carried.

On behalf of the Mayor of Swansea (Alderman Edward Harris), Mr. Leonard James, Chairman of the Swansea branch, extended a hearty welcome to Swansea. He said they were fortunate in having as their mayor a distinguished Local Government Officer, who had been most helpful to the Swansea officials, particularly in regard to the recent formation of their Joint Advisory Committee. Mr. Arthur Gould (Glamorgan County Officers) thanked the Mayor.

A report on the annual conference by the committee's representatives—Mr. T. Evans (Rhondda), Mr. F. A. Stephenson (Barry), and Mr. Rhys Williams (Gellygaer)—was received.

B. and O. Fund

The committee elected as their representatives on the South Wales Regional Committee for the Benevolent and Orphan Fund their chairman (Mr. T. Evans), the hon. secretary (Mr. Rhys Williams), Mr. G. Llewellyn (Monmouth County Council), and Mr. T. J. Hopkins (Aberdare). It was reported that the branches entitled to appoint members of the committee were the Glamorgan County Council, Cardiff and Porthcawl, and that they had respectively appointed Mr. T. C. Evans, Mr. J. Weslake Hill and Mr. G. B. Heselton.

Mr. J. E. N. Davis reported upon the decision of the Court of Appeal on *Gissing v. Liverpool Corporation*, and said that it had been received with gratification by a large number of transferred Poor Law Officers whose title to superannuation had appeared to be in jeopardy. That number included many South Wales officials. A number of speakers emphasised the importance of the case to the service and stressed the great value of N.A.L.G.O.'s action to all transferred officers, and on the proposition of Mr. Rhys Williams (Gellygaer), seconded by Mr. Arthur Gould (Glamorgan County Council), a vote of thanks to the National Executive Council and the officers of the association for their services in the matter was unanimously carried.

It was reported that out of 103 local authorities in South Wales, only sixteen were still making deductions in officers' salaries, and of these three had halved the reductions. It was hoped that at an early date the reductions of the last two years would all be restored.

Local Whitley Committees

It was stated that since the last meeting of the committee local Whitley Committees had been established at Cardiff, Swansea and Aberdare, and that the Magor Rural District Council had adopted the Local Government and Other Officers' Superannuation Act, 1922. A report on the adoption of superannuation schemes throughout the area was also submitted to the committee.

When the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1934, was introduced to the House of Commons as a Bill, its effect upon the service was regarded with serious concern by many members in South Wales. The strenuous efforts made by N.A.L.G.O. to protect the interests of officers affected had been reported from time to time, and it was generally agreed that the result of the association's efforts in all the circumstances was most satisfactory.

The chairman of the Regional B. and O.

(*Continued on page* 656, *col.* 2)

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See the K.B. "Knok-a-Bout." on page 649

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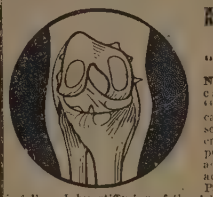

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N.A.L.G.O. SPORT

NORTH WESTERN DISTRICT FINALS

The annual sports meeting was held at Fleetwood on September 15. Bolton, Blackpool, Birkenhead and Burnley were the four bowling teams to contest the semi-finals: Blackpool and Birkenhead winning through to the final match, which resulted in a win for Blackpool, thus securing the Challenge Cup presented by the North Western District. The members of the winning team received pewter tankards as prizes, and the runners-up received clocks.

Mr. P. W. Rowley (Liverpool) was successful in the Bowling Individual Merit Competition and secured the Challenge Cup presented by the Manchester Branch of N.A.L.G.O. and a suit case as 1st prize. Mr. J. Whitworth (Rochdale) was the runner-up and received a pewter tea set as 2nd prize.

Manchester and Liverpool were again the finalists in the tennis teams competition, Manchester proving victorious, as they did last year, and securing the trophy presented by the Salford Branch of N.A.L.G.O. The winning team members received dressing cases as prizes, and the runners-up received clocks.

Mr. J. A. Spencer (Liverpool) was the winner of the Tennis Individual Gents Competition, and won the challenge cup presented by the Burnley Branch and a pewter flower bowl as 1st prize. Mr. F. Howarth (Manchester) secured second place and a dressing case as 2nd prize.

The winner of the Tennis Individual Ladies Competition was Miss N. Garnett (Warrington), who secured the Johnson Cup and a dressing case as 1st prize. Miss M. Bingham (Manchester) took 2nd place, and as runner-up was presented with a handbag.

The Golf Competition results were as follows: Winner, Mr. F. P. Haslam (Blackburn) —Accrington Cup and suit case as 1st prize; Runner-up, Mr. F. Ainsworth (Southport)— pewter cigarette case as 2nd prize.

Golf Consolation Competition: Winner— Mr. J. W. Hough (Salford), pyjama case as 1st prize; Runner-up—Mr. E. V. Todd (Fleetwood), pyrex glass as 2nd prize.

The result of the Swimming Teams Competition, which had been completed previously, and which was held at Davyhulme Baths, Davyhulme, on June 28, was as follows: Winners: Manchester—Lancs. County Cup—cut glass vases as 1st prize; Runners-up: Southport—brushes in leather cases as 2nd prize.

CRICKET, TENNIS, AND BOWLS FINALS AT BASINGSTOKE

The finals in the summer sports competitions organised by the Southern District Sports Committee of N.A.L.G.O. were played (by kind permission) on the sports ground of Messrs. Thornycroft, at Basingstoke.

In the cricket final old friends met in the Bucks County Branch (winners in 1928, 1930 and 1931) and Reading Borough Branch (who were joint holders with Bournemouth Branch in 1933). Bucks batted first and the innings closed for 116. Reading scored 73, leaving Bucks County winners by 43 runs.

At the close of the match the trophy was handed to Mr. F. Brandon, captain of the Bucks team, by Mr. A. V. Kimber (Bournemouth), the chairman of the Southern District Committee. Mr. Kimber congratulated both sides upon the excellent cricket they had played, and the Bucks team particularly on winning so well contested a final. Mr. Brandon thanked Mr. Kimber.

Old rivals also met in the final of the bowls competition, Southampton Branch opposing Portsmouth. Southampton ran out winners by the margin of five shots. Mr. Kimber again handed the challenge cup to the winning team, and was thanked by Mr. Elgey (Southampton), who spoke of the value of these sports events to the association.

In the tennis final the Berkshire County Branch, on their first appearance in the competition, had the satisfaction of winning the cup by five events to three. Their opponents were Portsmouth.

The arrangements were made by the Southern District Sports Committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. S. M. Dee (Swindon), Mr. R. Davey (hon. secretary), in co-operation with Mr. D. D. Spencer (hon. secretary, Basingstoke Branch).

SOUTH WALES AND MONMOUTHSHIRE DISTRICT COMMITTEE

(*Continued from page* 654)

Committee (Mr. J. Weslake Hill) referred to the fact that in 1933 grants made to South Wales cases from the Benevolent and Orphan Fund amounted to £1,053 or £164 more than was raised in the area in 1933. Mr. Hill said that if they were to continue their generous aid to widows and orphans and members in misfortune, it was essential to increase their contributions to the fund. It was recognised that splendid support had been given, but even more liberal help must be secured.

A delegate mentioned that within the last year he had received generous aid from the fund after a serious illness, and it was literally true that, but for that timely aid, he would not have been there that day. He could appreciate the magnificent work the fund was doing, and urged every official to give it increased support.

Following the meeting, the Mayor of Swansea entertained the delegates to tea. A vote of thanks to the mayor was unanimously carried on the proposition of Mr. J. Williams (Monmouth County Council), seconded by Mr. W. Millward (Merthyr Tydfil).

THE WILDEST WEST

Not one in all the examples of historic horseflesh known and recorded can compare with the magnificent stallion of Cherry Wilson's thrill: "Black Wing's River" (Ward, Lock, 3s. 6d. net). This desirable beast, when a foal, had been stolen, with its mother, by a gang of Western outlaws and in due time had become the envy of many. Blood stock owners were bent on possessing so fine a scion of race breed and accordingly engaged a smart young gentleman from the Plains, who would adventure to Picture Rock, its queer abode, and bring back Black Wing. The calendar of what befell thereby shows Mr. Wilson as a writer of first-class hazard and Wildest Western dash.

MR. LLOYD GEORGE'S MEMOIRS

WAR MEMOIRS OF DAVID LLOYD GEORGE: Volume III—(Ivor Nicholson & Watson, Ltd., 44 Essex Street, W.C.2. 21s. net.).

This volume, continuing the story of the 1914-1918 holocaust, commences with a summary of the work confronting the Lloyd George Coalition Government on its accession to office at the end of 1916. As a preliminary to its main tasks, it had to overcome those petty jealousies which seem inevitable when personalities clash, and it had to satisfy all sections and shades of established political parties that each would get a share in the manning of the Cabinet. The "Memoirs" relate the facts of the food problem, the shipping shortage, the submarine peril, the bickering and squabbling between Government Departments, and the lack of support and assistance given to new blood by the "brass hats." But the tempo increases. A new drive, new initiative, new organisation and co-operation are infused into the time-honoured methods of men who felt that this war was a matter of departmental routine, and that Jack must not dare to have a word to say about Tom's job.

The Military Situation

Thence we pass on to a review of the military situation, with all its schoolboy sulks whenever "Unity of Command" is mentioned. We learn of the efforts made to avoid those massacres known as the Nivelle and Passchendaele offensives of 1917, and of how military adherence to plans worked out long before supervened over the wiser counsels of less prejudiced politicians. The Department of National Service comes in for its share of criticism. "It made a clumsy start, but when it was re-organised, it handled its delicate and troublesome duties efficiently and well."

Then follows an account of the Petrograd Conference—a futile and too tardy effort to save Russia from ceasing hostilites—and the best and most admirable account of the causes of the Revolution that I have yet read. There may be some hair-splitting pedants who will regard this chapter as being out of place in the "Memoirs" since it has nothing to do with the war; let them say what they will, agree with them in order to maintain peace, but read this chapter carefully. It will repay your study.

America's Attitude.

Finally, we learn of the events leading to America's entry into the fracas. She did not want war—perhaps she was prospering too much by remaining neutral. Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, our Ambassador at Washington, wrote that the "United States, entirely against its own will, has been driven into the War, partly by the peril in which the cause of democracy was placed, and partly by the individual wrongs perpetrated by Germany against the United States." This was the spirit which animated her jealous mistrust of the Allies and her tardiness in preparing men and munitions even after her entry.

"... our total expenditure during the War, up to April, 1917, amounted to £4,300,000,000." This was the price at that date of endeavouring to dispel the "peril in which the cause of democracy was placed." It would, perhaps, be nearer the mark to say that this was the price paid by democracy for the privilege of committing suicide.

This fully and carefully documented narrative brings us one step nearer the completion of the best and most comprehensive history of the war which has ended peace. It also establishes beyond doubt that Lloyd George was the greatest War Minister of modern times.—*D.J.P.*

NORTH EASTERN OFFICERS' BOWLS LEAGUE

The following is the final table in the North Eastern Municipal Officers' Bowls League:—

	P.	W.	L.	D.	For	Against	Points
Gateshead	10	8	2	0	761	671	16
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	10	6	4	0	753	726	12
South Shields	10	5	5	0	818	774	10
Tynemouth	10	5	5	0	763	733	10
Sunderland	9	3	6	0	628	639	6
Wallsend	9	1	8	0	726	806	2

When a man says: "I'll come in blind," he is apt to be misunderstood by dull people. And when Jim (Lord Trevitter) says so Mr. Mark Cross is ready with his best reason why in a lively tale of "The Shadow of the Four" (Ward, Lock, 3s. 6d.).

N.A.L.G.O.'s SUNSHINE CRUISE TO THE CANARY ISLANDS

By C. W. GABBATT, F.L.A., LIBRARIAN AND CURATOR, BARROW-IN-FURNESS

YEOWARD HO! So soon as I had embarked on S.S. *Alondra*, Mr. H. Wright, our organising secretary, "booked" me for a description of the cruise.

To leave the murk of the Mersey on a stormy afternoon in July in the joyous hope of sunlight and colour on the other side of "The Bay" was a fitting prelude to the cruise.

A few days to settle down, and then the routine of the ship becomes automatic. There is cargo to be landed at Corunna, and time enough for an excursion ashore. We start with a visit to the old quarters of Corunna itself, including the Jardin de San Carlos. Corunna, with its beautiful gardens and palm trees, is a very pleasant place, and owing to the mildness of the climate the country around reveals a wealth of vegetation as luxuriant as in Southern Spain.

In Ancient Santiago

Santiago which next occupied our attention, is among the most interesting historical places of Europe. A city of 35,000 inhabitants, forty miles south of Corunna, it occupies an elevated situation encircled by mountains, and from certain aspects has the appearance of a granite city. It preserves in a unique degree its ancient appearance and character. The cathedral, begun in 1078 and consecrated in 1211, is probably the finest representative of early Romanesque in Spain.

Now we are on our way to Lisbon. Fog was encountered approaching the wide opening of the River Tagus, engines were stopped, the ship's syren being repeatedly used all through the night with answering calls sounded by steamers in the vicinity too near to be pleasant. By early morning fog had disappeared, thereby enabling passengers astir early to witness the

A Typical "Housing Estate" in Morocco

view down the nine miles of river from the open sea to the Portuguese Capital. Truly, the panorama of colours was enchanting.

An excursion was made by motor to Cintra. Built on a range of low hills overlooking one of the finest natural harbours in the world, for beauty of situation it ranks high among the maritime cities of Europe. The excursion to Cintra, Cascaes and Monte Estoril is one which no visitor to Lisbon should omit to take. The road passes through vineyards and orchards and the modern village of Amadora, thence penetrating more hilly country abounding in groves of eucalyptus and olives, through Queluz with its Royal Palace, Cacem, Rio de Moura to the famous hill village of Cintra, which occupies a remarkably picturesque position at the edge of a range of hills with ravines dipping down on either side.

A visit was first made to the beautiful gardens of Regaleira and then to Cintra Palace, a structure dating back to the 14th century, the former residence of the late Queen Maria Pia, grandmother of King Manoel II. After lunch we proceeded to the Pena Castle, first built by King Manoel I in 1503 and adapted and repaired in 1840 for a summer residence of the Royal Family of Portugal. It was interesting to observe in the State Apartments the collection of popular English magazines and newspapers which are still displayed as left by King Manoel and Queen Amelia on the occasion of their flight from the Castle.

On one of the Terraces of Pena Castle, near Lisbon, the former residence of the Royal Family of Portugal

Pena Castle is situated 2,000 feet above sea level, and a magnificent view over land and sea is obtained. Leaving the Castle the motor proceeded south to the coast, passing through a beautiful district which has been aptly termed the Portuguese Riviera, of which Cascaes and Monte Estoril are noted bathing stations and water resorts. By way of diversion some amusement was caused whilst watching a native poultry dealer driving through the streets a large flock of live turkeys which were being taken from door to door and offering any prospective buyers the privilege of selection.

Life on the Ship

Considerable interest was taken in watching a regatta, and we just had time to witness the finish to an exciting boat race manned by four Portuguese crews. After having been ashore twelve hours we sailed at 8 p.m., later passing Cape St. Vincent. On sailing days all sorts of games were indulged in, quoits, deck tennis, deck bowls, and most popular of all—bathing pool. There were competitions and tournaments, and every evening, dancing.

The next port of call was Casablanca. Perhaps that part of mysterious Africa excited our curiosity to a greater extent. The approach into harbour in early morning in glorious sunshine, together with the distant background of the city, is almost beyond description.

The city is really one of contrasts. Remarkable development has taken place since the French occupied the country in 1907, a great harbour having been constructed and repeatedly extended, mainly, we were informed, by German prisoners of war, while adjacent to the Medina or Arab quarter a fine new town has sprung up with wide roads, some of which have three parallel carriageways. There are palm-tree lined boulevards, avenues, squates, tracks for pack animals, shops, banks and commercial buildings of every description.

Rabat, 55 miles north of Casablanca, and the official capital of the French Protectorate, occupies a conspicuous position at the mouth of the Bu Regreg, opposite to Salee, the dreaded Barbary Corsair stronghold of the 17th and 18th centuries and early in the 19th century a centre of organised piracy and slavery. The principal features of the capital are the Bazaars, the Kasha (or citadel) of the Oudaia and the Sultan's Palace which, unfortunately, we were not permitted to enter as the Sultan was in residence that day. A visit was also made to the famous Hassan Tower, 150 feet high and 50 feet square at the base, with only one step at the entrance, afterwards making the ascent by an inclined passage way to the top.

Returning by a different route, we passed many Arabs taking their merchandise to the city loaded on camels while they themselves rode on donkeys. Our curiosity was aroused whilst passing a real Arab compound close to the road side, but it was considered indiscreet to make closer acquaintance with the conditions of these people as it was much resented and, therefore, unsafe. However, it can be left to the imagination what kind of life is possible with shelters of straightened tins of all kinds and undescribable filth.

We anchored in the Bay at Madeira. Our arrival was heralded by the appearance of the diving boys appealing for coins to be thrown into the clear blue sea. The scenery of the coast and of the mountainous interior is very impressive.

Picking up Bargains

Some of the old methods used in the process of wine manufacture are used to-day for the best wines. To find ourselves invaded and surrounded by vendors of all sorts of wares, silks and trinkets in tempting array spread on the ground, was an experience not to be resisted, and many "bargains" were purchased without a thought of customs at home. Next a visit to the 500 year old Church of Nossa Senhora do Monte on a hill crest above the city. It shelters the tomb of the exiled Carl, Emperor of Austria-Hungary, who, until his death 14 years ago, lived with his family on an estate near by.

The Monte Palace Hotel is charmingly situated 2,000 feet above sea level, with remarkably fine views of the town and Bay of Funchal, and the surrounding mountains. The grounds and gardens of semi-tropical plants and flowers cover an area of about 35 acres and contain an artificial lake, fountains, waterfall, water chute, grottoes, etc.

In the afternoon the descent down the mountain side was made in toboggan sledges. The descent by tobogan from the summit of this mountain may sound a rather improbable proposition to those who have never visited this colourful isle of romance. These mountain

(*Continued on page* 659)

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to make plans for the long winter evenings

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Although correspondence courses can be commenced at any date in the year, it is undoubtedly advantageous to do so now. Two further advantages are obtained by enrolling with the NALGO CORRESPONDENCE INSTITUTE, as follows :—

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The following is a short list of Institutions for whose examinations coaching is arranged :

National Association of Local Government Officers.

University of London (Diploma in Public Administration).

Institute of Municipal Treasurers and Accountants.

Association of Rating and Valuation Officers.

Various preliminary examinations (including matriculation).

Board of Trade (Inspectors of Weights and Measures and Gas Meters).

Chartered Institute of Secretaries, Incorporated Association of Secretaries and Corporation of Certified Secretaries.

Sanitary Inspectors' Joint Examination Board (both for England and Wales and for Scotland).

Royal Sanitary Institute (Inspectors of Meat and Other Foods, Food Hygiene (A.R.San.I.), and Sanitary Science).

Institution of Municipal and County Engineers (Testamur).

Poor Law Examinations Board (England and Wales).

(*a*) Relieving Officers.

(*b*) Institution Officers.

(*c*) Clerical Assistants.

Poor Law Examinations Board (Scotland).

Full particulars from the

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24 Abingdon Street Westminster, S.W.1

MOVEMENTS OF MEMBERS

Mr. D. C. Barlow, West Bromwich, to Assistant Master, Middlesbrough.

Mr. G. H. Hulson, West Bromwich, to a post in the Public Assistance Institution, at Bradford.

Mr. T. Watson, West Bromwich, to a post in the City Mental Hospital, Birmingham.

Mr. O. Cunniffe, Long Eaton, to Cashier, Accountant's Department, Barnet U.D.C.

Mr. H. N. Stockley, Coventry, to Engineering Assistant, Walsall.

Mr. W. H. Spencer, Sutton Coldfield, to a post in the Surveyor's Department, Clacton-on-Sea U.D.C.

Mr. D. F. Harding, Hants C.C., to Valuation Assistant, Middlesex C.C.

Miss C. Atwell, Devon C.C., to Nurse P. A. Department, Surrey C.C.

Mr. L. E. H. Hones, Surrey C.C., to Accountancy Assistant, Kent C.C.

Mr. H. Teague, Cornwall C.C., to Accounts Clerk, Gloucester C.C.

Mr. C. P. G. Neat, Cheltenham, to Chief Internal Audit Clerk, York City.

Mr. B. C. Brown, Somerset C.C., to Treasurer, Portland U.D.C.

Mr. H. F. Codling, West Suffolk, to Swinton.

Mr. R. L. Mealyard, Twickenham, to Building Inspector's Clerk, Epsom U.D.C.

Mr. A. Armitt, Enfield, to Accountancy Assistant, Stoke Newington.

Mr. W. Bentley, Enfield, to Borough Accountant, Finsbury.

Mr. J. E. Birkhead, Dagenham, to Lewisham.

Miss M. E. D. Chorley, Cambridge C.C., to Laundress at Public Assistance Institution, Weymouth.

Mr. E. F. Ladds, Cambridge C.C., to Deputy Librarian, Hertfordshire C.C.

Mr. G. W. Channon, Cambridge C.C., to Potato Marketing Board.

Mr. W. Eric Adams, Westminster, to Town Clerk, Islington.

Mr. G. W. Sapsford, Cambridge C.C., to Town Planning Assistant, West Riding, Yorks.

Mr. R. G. Groom, Norfolk C.C., to Lambeth, M.B.C.

Mr. G. S. Heasman, W. Suffolk C.C., to Essex C.C.

Mr. T. L. Wilson, Hackney, to Chief Librarian, Chelmsford B.

Mr. H. Dimmock, Harrow, to Clerk's Department, Hampstead.

Mr. Lewis, Shoreditch, to Borough Treasurer's Department, Weymouth.

Mr. R. C. E. Austin, Wandsworth, to Town Clerk, Penzance.

Mr. E. S. Saywell, Wandsworth, to Assistant Solicitor, Bognor Regis.

Mr. I. Shortt, Walsall, to articled pupil, Harrow U.D.C.

Mr. H. R. Ralph, Walsall, to Treasurer, Harrow U.D.C.

Mr. J. G. Jefferson, Grimsby, to Deputy Borough Engineer, Darlington.

Miss M. E. Sidney, Coventry, to Health Visitor, Walsall.

Mr. E. C. Parr, Lancaster, to Assistant Solicitor, Huddersfield.

Mr. W. H. Berry, Stalybridge, to Deputy Borough Treasurer, Widnes.

Mr. L. Marriott, Birkenhead, to Housing Department, Liverpool.

Mr. F. E. Harrison, Wakefield, to Director of Education, Blackpool.

Mr. H. A. Hayes, Bootle, to Public Assistant Department, Birmingham.

Mr. J. Cooper, Darwen, to First Assistant Transport Department, Northampton.

RECRUITING COMPETENT PERSONNEL

Here and there, some local governments are demanding trained men as administrators of various activities, but most governments go along just as though we were still in the period of Jacksonian democracy about one hundred years ago, says *Public Management* (Chicago). The recent action of the New York City board of aldermen in passing an ordinance, though fortunately still pending, requiring two years' residence in the city prior to appointment to any city position merely brings to the surface and accentuates what many governments have been practising all the time. Sufficient evidence of this is disclosed from a survey on apprenticeships in city halls. The study indicates that few cities have given thought to the idea of apprenticeship training of properly qualified and trained university men and women, even though they may be local residents. Of course, not many new appointments are being made in these days, so there is all the more reason for careful selection. Yet, all kinds of reasons, real and imaginary, are given for not obtaining the best qualified person that the position demands.

City councilmen and administrators who condone such practices must admit that they believe in spoils systems or that they are not acquainted with the fact that changes in the technique of public administration during the past decade or so have been so far reaching as to change almost entirely the whole field of local government. Since the war, all levels of government have greatly expanded old services and added many new ones formerly carried on by private enterprise. These changes call for technicians trained in the art and science of administration just as much as, and more so than, schools require trained teachers and hospitals require trained physicians and surgeons. Many local government administrators and councilmen, basking in the sunlight of self-satisfied and immovable complacency, build moats around their city and let down the bridges for anyone who wishes to enter.

N.A.L.G.O.'S SUNSHINE CRUISE

(*Continued from page 657*)

sledges are really double arm chairs made of wicker and mounted on wooden runners. A drag rope is attached to each side. After taking a seat two gaily dressed men place a lump of tallow under each runner in order to grease

THE TOWER OF HASSAN

it when the vehicle moves. They seize the traces and away we go down the steep cobbled incline. Every now and then we skirt uncomfortably close to the edge of the steep cliffs. At the foot of the mountain passengers transfer to oxen sledges for conveyance into the town of Funchal.

Orotava is a town of eight thousand inhabitants on the north coast of Teneriffe, 27 miles distant from Santa Cruz. The Valley of Orotava is one of the most beautiful in the world, and lies between two mountain slopes with the picturesque white houses of the villa nestling amidst green foliage in the hollow and struggling up the lower declivities of the mountain sides.

Starting from the quay at Santa Cruz, the motors proceeded through the town and then on to the long ascent to La Laguna. After visiting the cathedral, museum and Dragon Tree, reputed to be three thousand years old, standing nearly 45 ft. high and measuring 47 ft. round the base, we entered a long avenue of eucalyptus trees before reaching the summit at 2,100 ft. From this point the road descends through a really cultivated district, and a visit was made to one of Messrs. Yeoward Brothers' plantations.

The excursion to Las Palmas began with a visit to the cathedral, market, etc., and the motors then proceeded along the coast road to Telde, 8½ miles from Las Palmas, and the second town of the island. The road continues through beautiful mountainous scenery, climbing to a height of 1,500 ft. to Atalaya, the homes of the cave-dwellers. At San Mateo a height of 2,670 ft. is reached, the charming country hereabouts being rich in groves of walnut, chestnuts, pine and other trees. Here the motors turned back, descending a winding road down the mountain side to Santa Brigida, then through the Monte district to Tafira.

There were few incidents during *Alondra's* long journey to Liverpool, but a call was made at Vigo, where the prevalence of fog delayed our arrival into the Bay and only permitted about three hours for sightseeing ashore.

I shall always recall the islands as they appeared to me—truly Happy Isles.

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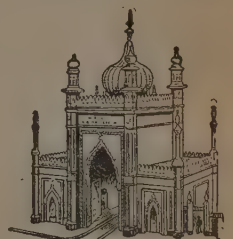

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ANNUITIES FOR WIDOWS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICERS

By the LEGAL SECRETARY

THE Manchester Corporation Act, 1934, received the Royal Assent on July 31st last and, becoming law, confers upon married officers very important and far-reaching options with the object of providing annuities for widows.

The official who has reached the age of sixty years and has completed forty years' service may give one month's notice before retiring, to avail himself of the provisions of the Act. In like manner, the official who is compulsorily retired on superannuation allowance on account of age at sixty-five may give similar notice. The corporation may grant the request if they are of the opinion that the applicant's state of health is reasonably satisfactory, regard being had to his age.

The standard percentage by which the retiring allowance of the official is reduced has been fixed at eleven per cent., where the wife is the same age as the husband or older. In the case of the wife being younger, the percentage reduction is increased in accordance with the following table :—

Reduction of Superannuation Allowance. Further percentage reduction from husband's superannuation allowance. Wife younger than husband	
Less than 1 year	1 per cent
1 year and less than 2 years	2 "
2 years and less than 3 years	3 "
3 " " " " 4 "	3½ "
4 " " " " 5 "	4½ "
5 " " " " 6 "	5½ "
6 " " " " 7 "	6 "
7 " " " " 8 "	6½ "
8 " " " " 9 "	7½ "
9 " " " " 10 "	8½ "
10 " " " " 11 "	9 "

In any other case such an amount as shall be certified by the actuary to be just.

The percentage reduction of the retiring allowance having been fixed in accordance with the above conditions, the amount is deducted from the allowance payable to the retired officer. On the death of the retired officer, the widow is entitled to an annuity for life of one-third of the allowance which was payable to the retired member prior to its being reduced.

A simple example is given :—

	per annum
1. Assuming the retired officer is entitled to a superannuation allowance of	£300
2. His wife, being the same age or older, 11 per cent is deducted	33
3. The superannuation allowance receivable is then	267
4. On the death of the husband, the widow receives an annuity for life of one-third of the superannuation allowance	100

Under Section 79 (3) a retired member may give notice in respect of the whole or a specified part of the superannuation allowance.

The following is an example relating to an officer who wishes to have the provisions applied in respect of a specified part, viz., £156 and *not* £300.

	per annum
1. Assuming the retired officer is entitled to a superannuation allowance of	£300 0 0
2. Amount specified in respect of which he requires an annuity to be paid to his widow	156 0 0
3. His wife, being the same age (or older) 11 per cent is deducted from £156	17 3 2
4. The superannuation allowance receivable by the officer during his life would then be £300, less £17 3 2	282 16 10
5. On the death of the husband, the annuity to his widow would be one-third of £156	52 0 0

Under Section 79 (2) (*b*) any balance of the retired member's account in the Superannuation Fund, after deducting the amount of superannuation allowance paid up to his death, calculated as if it had not been reduced, is to be paid over to his executors in addition to the annuity to the widow.

For example, assuming that the officer, on his retirement, had standing to his credit in the Superannuation Fund (his superannuation contributions plus compound interest thereon at the rate of 4 per cent per annum calculated by ½ yearly rests) £900

His retiring allowance was £300 per annum (before being reduced as in the first example above) and he lived two years 600

The sum to be paid to his executors, in addition to the annuity of £100 to his widow, would be 300

Under Section 79 (1) an officer who is entitled to retire, *i.e.*, has reached the age of sixty, and has completed forty years' service, may give notice in writing for these provisions to be applied to his widow if he should die whilst remaining in the service (up to the age of sixty-five years) or at any time he retires between the ages of sixty and sixty-five; but having given the notice, his superannuation allowance will be reduced as from the actual date of his retirement, even though his wife may have died in the meantime.

During the past four years provisions relating to annuities for widows on lines somewhat similar to the provisions in the Manchester Corporation Act referred to above have also been made in the following cases, *viz.*:—

In connection with superannuation schemes established under local Acts :

Cardiff Corporation Act, 1930.
Middlesex County Council Act, 1934.

In connection with superannuation schemes made under the Local Government and Other Officers' Superannuation Act, 1922 :

Cambridge Corporation Act, 1932.
Barking Corporation Act, 1933.
Salford Corporation Act, 1933.
Newport Corporation (General Powers) Act, 1934.
Stockport Corporation Act, 1934.

One benefit given by the Manchester Scheme for annuities for widows which does not appear in any of the other schemes is the provision for any balance of the retired member's account in the superannuation fund, after deducting the amount of superannuation allowance paid up to his death, calculated as if it had not been reduced, to be paid over to his executors in addition to the annuity to the widow.

SANITARY INSPECTORS' QUALIFICATIONS

MR. Robert Keeley, F.S.I.A., County Sanitary Officer, Lancashire C.C., reviewing the report of the Hadow Committee at the annual conference of the Sanitary Inspectors' Association, observed that it was evident that local authorities showed an increasing concern for proficiency in their public servants. "More and more," he said, "they are coming to require proof of that fitness; and it is upon their estimation of the value of the duties we perform that our status largely depends. Yet, this estimation of the value of our work is based, and perhaps rightly so, in great measure upon the educational qualifications it calls for. Our disadvantage, then, is not so much that we lack technical knowledge or technical proficiency. It lies rather in the fact that our so-called qualifying certificate does not adequately attest the range of attainments which complexity of duties and a sincerity of service urge us to obtain. Were this additional equipment to be attested as part of a recognised comprehensive examination much misconception would vanish. As it is, such misconception tends to belittle the work of the Sanitary Inspector whose efficiency already entitles his service to an equal respect with that of other local government officers.

"Our own Association, in their evidence, disclaim strongly any desire to close the calling of Sanitary Inspector to anyone having the general ability necessary for making a fully efficient officer. They assert, however, that the modern Sanitary Inspector must possess such a wide and varied range of knowledge that no previous occupation outside of a public health department can be regarded as preparing him for more than a fraction of an inspector's duties. Inasmuch, then, as the various other associations of local government officers agree as to the necessity of new entrants into the service being well equipped educationally, it would be appropriate to apply their acceptable evidence of this equipment to the Sanitary Inspector's examination in particular. This evidence—the possession of a matriculation or school certificate or their equivalent—is held to be warranted. As pointed out in the memorandum of evidence, the Association are satisfied that with the public educational facilities now available, but which were lacking when the majority of existing inspectors were appointed, the educational requirement suggested leaves this local appointment open to all classes.

"Thus, the appointment of Sanitary Inspector is freely open to the craftsman and the graduate alike. But, just as the university candidate must acquire the technical qualifications necessary to the service, so the craftsman must be called upon to enter the gateway of his advancement with the passport of general education. This attitude to recruitment fully accords with the two principles laid down by the Hadow Committee. It is, therefore, consistent also with the Committee's views on that avenue of recruitment—the articled pupilage system."

Carlton Dawe's so-far cleverest creation "Leathermouth" comes along once more in a new secret-service thriller: "The Law of the Knife" (Ward, Lock, 3s. 6d.). The legality of it shows much of that promptitude which once was called "Lynch Law," and now stops short at the adjective; while the weapon employed comes flying out from the dexterous hand of diabolic jugglery at its victims pinned to the wall. Marina and her man are thus to be hacked slowly to pieces and the process begins with Kaplan as the butcher. But that fiendish monstrosity is, of course, caught up in time and rescue proclaims a saner law.

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LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND THE CENTENARY

The following letter from the General Secretary has appeared extensively in the public press:

"Sir Henry Jackson has already publicly drawn attention to the fact that next year marks the centenary of the passing of the first Municipal Corporations Act, 1835, and, in consequence, it represents the centenary of Local Government as we know it in this country.

"I have visited a number of other countries, and I never go abroad without realising how much we owe to our Municipal and Local Government Authorities for our high standard of health and comfort.

"The progress in Local Government during the last one hundred years is a story worth telling, and I think that everyone would have a more kindly thought to the problems of local administrators if he were shown what is the real value that he gets in return for his rates.

"I think each town and district has some achievement of which it is justly proud, and I suggest that during 1935, every town in the Kingdom should arrange some public function which would bring to the notice of the local community what Local Government is doing, and tell each citizen the history of his own town.

"If everyone of us would accept Aristotle's injunction that 'a City should exist for a good life and not just for life itself' we should cut the ground from under the feet of present-day advocates of various 'isms.'"

Yours etc.,
L. Hill,
General Secretary.

In his newest novel, "Jewels Go Back," E. C. Vivian contributes another good thing to his dozen and more in Ward, Lock's 3s. 6d. net series. Many jewels of varying sort are recovered through its pages, including those of speech, as when Oliver Carey opens his mind and voice together. Oliver's rare alertness begins with diving in to the rescue of a gentleman of strange breed who, brought back to safety, accuses Oliver of having pushed him in! The Deringham necklace is assuredly destined to go back and the Oxford blue, now playing at village blacksmith, may wash himself and return to the club.

Outside a Moroccan House near Fedhala: An incident on the recent Nalgo cruise.

THE CENTENARY CRUISE

(*Continued from page 643*)

The incomparable Jenny Lind has a delightful monument on Djurgarden, the principal park of Stockholm.

Reference should be made to the admirable library facilities. The Royal Library houses

STOCKHOLM TOWN HALL

several hundreds of thousands of volumes and tens of thousands of manuscripts and portfolios of leaflets. In addition to the reading rooms, several of the library's rare and valuable specimens are exhibited in separate apartments. These include precious mediaeval manuscripts, among them "Codex aures," a Latin testament of the 8th century. There are also the colossal "Gigas librorum" or "Devil's Bible," one of the largest existing collections of Elzevir editions, and many other objects of interest.

Besides the Royal Library there is a number of special libraries, of which the Royal Academy of Science owns the principal; and the Nobel Institute, in conjunction with the Swedish Academy, has a large collection of lighter literature, principally foreign. The Municipal Library is exceedingly up-to-date in organisation.

The older parts of Stockholm still show clear traces of mediaeval town planning. On the main streets running north and south the line of the former city walls may be distinguished and the layout of the mediaeval times may be traced by the small cross streets and alleys.

Here, indeed, is a city which, for its peculiar problems of civic administration and the variety of its services, will afford a study of intense interest for those who participate in next year's centenary cruise.

As already announced, the period of the cruise will be 19 days commencing on 3rd August, 1935, and the rates will vary from nineteen guineas to thirty-eight guineas, according to the position of the cabin and the sleeping accommodation required; apart from that, there will be no distinction. Calls will be made at Oslo, Copenhagen, Stockholm, Helsingfors, Leningrad, Riga, Zoppot, Holtenau, Brunsbuttel, and Hamburg, and arrangements will be made for visiting the chief features of local administration at each place of call. In subsequent issues of LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE the main features of these towns will be described.

SOUTH-WESTERN DISTRICT COMMITTEE

The quarterly meeting of the South-Western District Committee was held at the Guildhall, Exeter, on September 15. The Mayor and Sheriff of Exeter gave the delegates a civic welcome, both paying high tribute to the work of the Association. The chair was occupied by Mr. P. H. Cole (Plymouth) in the absence of the chairman, Mr. C. J. Newman (Town Clerk of Exeter), who was unavoidably absent.

Mr. A. A. Garrard, of the N.E.C. addressed the meeting on the subject of Whitleyism and the formation of Local Joint Councils. A general discussion followed on the question of setting up Provincial Whitley Councils in the S.W. area. Many questions were put to Mr. Garrard in regard to the difficulties which had to be overcome in a large district which contained many rural authorities. It was eventually decided to defer until the next meeting the whole question of forming Whitley Councils in the area and so allow delegates the opportunity of reporting to their Branches the various opinions expressed.

About forty-five delegates were present, representing twenty-five Branches. The divisional secretary reported that the membership of the District was still increasing. At the conclusion of the proceedings delegates were entertained to luncheon by the Devon County and Exeter City Branches. Toasts were proposed by the Chairman, to the Mayor and Sheriff of Exeter, and by Mr. McAuliffe. The Mayor, Alderman T. J. Templeman, and the Sheriff, Mr. Rew, responded, and also Mr. Brian S. Miller, Clerk of the Devon County Council, on behalf of the local Branches.

The stars in literature have been made responsible for much since the fourth day of Creation. In story-form a dozen of them now appear to make a bright setting, devised by Mr. H. S. Keeler. This is how things happen, when so-made, "Under Twelve Stars": First there is a dash from an empty house and the sight of a murdered man with a dragon-topped hatpin protruding from one eye. Then pursuit and escape in furiously speeding cars with baffled police in the rear. Again the disclosure that the car in flight is driven by a beautiful curly-haired young miss, who clutches in one hand the headless body of—a hatpin! Two hundred and fifty pages to this effect, for those who like it, could scarcely be beaten. Above all we meet with golden tresses once again. Harding had told her that with his honour and good name defended he could go back to his place in the queue of down and outs. He had hoped to do better than that, but fortune was against him. A stirring Ward, Lock novel (at 3s. 6d.).

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EASTBOURNE.—Homely board Residence. Central. 40/- weekly, including sitting room fires. Mid-day Dinner. Christmas, Easter, 7/6 day, 10 St. Aubyns Road.

HASTINGS.—"Holmesdale" Private Hotel, Holmesdale Gardens. Highly recommended; near sea. From 42s. to 63s., according season, room. Proprietresses ex-Nalgo members.

HOVE.—27 Pembroke Crescent. Homely modern Guest House. Liberal table, good cooking. Comfortable beds. Moderate terms.—Mrs. Heath. Telephone: 5554.

LLANDUDNO.—"Llys Madoc," Charlton St. Board-residence, central for all amusements. Mid-day dinner. Separate tables. Moderate terms; highly recommended by N.A.L.G.O. members.—Mrs. E. J. Leach.

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(Continued at foot of next column)

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BRIDGE FORUM

By NEVILLE HOBSON

Principles of Contract

IT is undesirable, from a general point of view, to attempt regular technical articles on Contract in a monthly journal.

This advanced form of Bridge has become somewhat involved as the result of numerous conventions, and it is difficult to deal with problems of bidding on general lines.

Most players use one or more of such recognised conventions as the "Forcing two," "2 Clubs," or the "One Club," and these in turn are capable of minor modifications.

I would, however, urge those who have not yet plunged into the sea of Contract not to be overawed by these references to conventions, as they are comparatively easy of assimilation and work well in practice—the main objection to the last two being their tendency to artificiality.

Natural Bidding

There is a small but strong school of players, however, who still insist that natural principles of bidding can achieve the best results. By this I refer to slam bonuses, which were the underlying cause of these conventions in the first instance.

When the American experts devised the new method of scoring, they decided upon relatively high bonuses for obtaining slams, and this called for an early indication of an unusually strong hand.

The Forcing Two (an initial bid of 2 in a Suit) indicates from 4½ to 5½ Honour Tricks—a "2 Club" bid has a similar meaning (with the alternative of two of any other suit to show 3½ Honour tricks), and a conventional bid of "One Club" means anything from 3½ to 4 Honour tricks.

The negative response to Culbertson's Forcing 2 (*i.e.*, the holding of less than 1½ Honour tricks) is "2 No Trumps," but the weak responses to both the 2 Clubs and 1 Club conventions are the purely artificial ones of 2 Diamonds and 1 Diamond respectively; but players quickly become accustomed to bidding Clubs or Diamonds in the early stages, irrespective entirely of the holdings in these particular suits.

American and English experts have recently collaborated, however, as regards the best principles applicable to more natural bidding, and it may be helpful if I summarise these main principles for information and guidance.

Opening Bids

One in a Suit : This is a strong invitation to the partner to keep the bidding open (if holding, say, 1½ Honour tricks).

One No Trump (not vulnerable) : A sound bid, when the distribution is balanced. (*When Vulnerable*) : A strong bid—inviting response wherever possible.

Two No Trumps : This is practically a Forcing Bid (but should only be used in special cases).

Three No Trumps : An invitation for slam bidding.

Two in a Suit : This is definitely forcing (irrespective of any convention) and guarantees probability of Game.

Three in a Suit : One long solid suit with little outside strength—intended to harass opponents (and should preferably follow a No Bid by partner).

Four in a Suit : A Pre-emptive Bid—to be used with great discretion.

Responding Bids

One No Trump : A negative and warning bid indicating minimum holding (unless made over an opponent's overcall).

One in a Higher ranking Suit : Forcing for one round. (This is known as the "One over one").

Two in a Lower ranking Suit : A constructive bid, implying some high card values.

A Single Raise in same Suit : This indicates limited support, but denies a more constructive bid.

Jump Raise in Partner's Suit : Urgent invitation for partner to continue.

Two No Trumps : Strong invitation to Game.

Three No Trumps : Slam suggestion.

A Jump Shift : This forces the game and suggests possibility of Slam.

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BRANCH NEWS

Atherstone

The Divisional Secretary attended a meeting of the Atherstone Rural District Council Officers at the Council Offices on August 29, when it was unanimously decided to form a Branch from September 1. Mr. G. Carlyon May, Clerk of the Council, presided, and was supported by Mr. H. Hughes, Engineer and Surveyor, and a representative attendance of officers.

Walsall

A programme of sports activities was undertaken this summer by the Social Events Committee at Walsall for the first time since the inception of the Branch, and to wind up what had been a most successful season a flannel dance was held in the Kinmare Café on September 6. The Divisional Secretary presented the trophies. The recipients were :—Cricket : The Housing and Transport Departments combined; Golf : Mr. A. J. Beaumont (Public Works); Bowls : Mr. A. N. Wilson (Borough Treasurer's); Tennis : Mr. H. A. Allsop (Town Clerk's). In presenting the "Ralph" Challenge Cup for Cricket to Mr. Dorrell, captain of the winning team, Mr. Davis expressed the members' appreciation of the generous gift of Mr. H. R. Ralph, ex-Borough Treasurer, and Vice-President of the Branch, and said they all wished Mr. Ralph success and happiness in his new appointment at Harrow.

Mr. John J. Clarke, the Liverpool barrister, who is the Nalgo Correspondence Institute's tutor in local government, public administration and the law relating to local government and municipalities, has joined the chambers of Sir Joshua Scholefield, K.C., in London at 3 Temple Gardens, Temple, E.C.4.

GLAMORGAN JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

This Committee was formed in 1920 on the application of the Glamorgan County Officers' Association, which is a branch of N.A.L.G.O., and for fourteen years has worked most smoothly to the advantage both of the county council and the staff. An important factor in securing this, was that the staff side has been composed entirely of N.A.L.G.O. members, so that there has been no division of opinion on the staff side.

Staff Unity

Since 1930, there has not been complete unity among the staff, and applications regarding service conditions made by the National Union of Public Employees have been before various committees; also the Union urged that they should be given seats upon the Joint Advisory Committee in respect of their membership.

The Establishment Committee of the County Council recently considered the matter, and decided that the Council members of the Joint Advisory Committee should confer with representatives of the National Union of Public Employees and with N.A.L.G.O. N.A.L.G.O. members who constituted the staff side, with Mr. J. E. N. Davis, divisional secretary, met the council members on September 12 and were informed by the chairman (Alderman D. Lewis) that, in the opinion of the council side, the N.U.P.E. had established a membership of officers covered by the terms of reference to the Joint Advisory Committee, which entitled them to representation. The council side were of opinion that the union should appoint two representatives who would be additional to the present seven N.A.L.G.O. members of the staff side, also that two additional council members should be appointed.

Approach to the Council

On behalf of the staff side, Mr. Davis said that they had always appreciated the value of the Joint Advisory Committee, in that it provided a constitutional means of approach to the council. They recognised that all the officials of the council were entitled to approach the council regarding service conditions, and they could not object, and never had objected, to an established organisation which had in membership a reasonable proportion of the various sections of the staff, being represented on the committee in relation to its membership. They hoped that under the changed circumstances, the staff side would co-operate whole-heartedly in maintaining the efficient and most helpful working of the committee. The chairman agreed that N.A.L.G.O. representatives had not opposed the entry of N.U.P.E. on the joint committee.

Sir William Jenkins, M.P., and other members referred to the happy relations which had existed on the committee from its inception, and said the council side hoped that every effort would be made on the staff side to work together so that the happy relationship would be fully maintained. The staff side replied that it would be their earnest desire to do this.

Perhaps the majority of Mr. P. C. Wren's public will agree with his publishers that his recent novel, "Action and Passion," is a "rival to 'Beau Geste'"; certainly no one possessing a scrap of critical judgment will deny the high merit of its every page. Courage once again is the author's resounding note, but it is borne now across the ocean space, in gloriously adventurous style, the first sea yarn told by the novelist of the Foreign Legion. We open with a prologue, weaving the "Strands of the Rope." Then our windjammer bears in sight. Mr. Wren, a master of opportunity, transfers all attention to her and, with duffel and "quid," we step aboard for the great voyage. This is a fine piece of work. (John Murray, 7s. 6d. net.)

N.A.L.G.O. MOTOR INSURANCE

FROST DAMAGE CONCESSION

MEMBERS who are holders of Comprehensive Motor Car Insurance Policies under the N.A.L.G.O. Motor Scheme will be pleased to learn that the charge of 5s. which has hitherto been made for the inclusion of frost damage cover is no longer to apply. All policies commencing on or after October 1, 1934, will be endorsed, as they are effected or renewed, to cover frost damage without any additional charge being made.

Since the commencement of the N.A.L.G.O. Motor Insurance Scheme additional benefits have been added from time to time and, as the demand for this class of insurance increases, it is hoped that further benefits will become available.

Increased Demand For Policies

The demand for N.A.L.G.O. motor policies has increased substantially during the present year, the returns for the twelve months ended August 31, 1934, showing an increase of 45 per cent. over the returns for the preceding twelve months. This substantial increase is due, not only to the very low premiums charged to members, but also to the fact that policyholders who have been unfortunate enough to have to make claims under their policies have been very satisfied with the manner in which such claims have been settled and they have made this fact known to other members.

The N.A.L.G.O. motor policy is particularly suited to the requirements of local government officers, and has been drawn up as a result of long and practical experience acquired through operating special motor schemes for local governments' officers and civil servants.

The question of security is of paramount importance, as many who were insured with one or other of those insurance companies liquidated in recent years have good cause to remember. The loss of his premium is by no means the worst that can happen to the policyholder when his company finds itself unable to meet its liabilities, and he is fortunate if he does not have to pay, out of his own pocket, a claim admitted by the company, but not settled. The claim may be anything between a small amount for repairing a bent wing and a very large sum payable to an injured party.

As far as claims under the latter category are concerned, the payment of compensation is solely the affair of the car owner, whether he recovers the amount under his insurance policy or not.

No question as to the security of Lloyd's can possibly arise. By reason of the stringent regulations imposed by the committee of Lloyd's on the undertakings of its members, it can be indisputably said that the security is as absolute as anything can be.

The Comprehensive Motor Policy

The N.A.L.G.O. Comprehensive Motor Policy gives very full cover and in addition to the provisions usually made in respect of damage to the car, fire, burglary and third party legal liability, provides various other benefits not generally found in the tariff policy, or for which an additional premium is charged.

The capital sums payable for death or injury apply both to the husband and wife and range from a maximum amount of £1,000 to a minimum of £500. Under the tariff policy these benefits are payable only to the policyholder and the minimum benefit is £250, the sums payable being in certain cases only one half of those given by the Nalgo policy.

The latter policy also contains a section applicable to the loss of, or damage to, rugs, coats, and other personal wearing apparel, owned by the assured or his passengers, by theft or fire, or damage resulting from damage to the car up to an amount of £5 for any single article and £20 for each claim. An additional premium of 10s. is charged by tariff companies to cover the loss of such articles by fire or theft, and a further 10s. if damage is to be covered.

The amount payable in respect of medical and surgical fees is much greater under the N.A.L.G.O. policy than under the tariff policy, the latter being limited to £10 10s. for each occupant of the insured car, while the N.A.L.G.O. policy agrees to pay such charges up to a maximum amount of twenty-five guineas for each occupant.

There is similarly a much higher scale of no-claim bonus under the N.A.L.G.O. policy, ranging from 20 per cent. to 33⅓ per cent., while the tariff bonus commences at 10 per cent. and does not exceed a maximum of 20 per cent. Under the N.A.L.G.O. policy the bonus is not prejudiced in the case of claims which could be recovered from a third party were it not for the operation of a "Knock-for-Knock" agreement between the N.A.L.G.O. underwriters and the third party's insurers. Thus, if the policyholder would have sustained no loss as far as the insured interest is concerned had he not been insured, the underwriters will allow his no claim bonus, notwithstanding that they may have paid the claim and not effected recovery.

One of the particular advantages of the N.A.L.G.O. policy is that it covers the use of the insured car for official business on behalf of the local authority employing the member and the local authority is indemnified against legal liability to third parties which may arise out of an accident whilst the member is using his car for official purposes.

The form of clause used to indemnify the authority has been generally approved and on the whole members may anticipate no difficulty in obtaining confirmation from their employers that the cover is sufficient.

An Important Benefit

A further condition of the N.A.L.G.O. policy which is of material benefit to the policyholder is that claims for total loss of the car are payable in full at the amount shown on the policy as the insured value. Most policies contain what is known as a "market value" clause, which limits the amount recoverable for a total loss to the market value of the car at the time of loss.

The N.A.L.G.O. underwriters take the view that it is better to arrange with the assured, when the policy is effected, the amount for which the car is to be covered and to pay this amount if the occasion should arise rather than to follow the more customary "market value" practice, which leaves the policyholder in a state of uncertainty and frequently gives rise to dissatisfaction.

The N.A.L.G.O. motor insurance scheme has been in operation for four years, and during that period the Association has been satisfied that all claims submitted by its members have been satisfactorily dealt with. In this connection it should be borne in mind that the question of a satisfactory settlement of claims is of far greater importance than that of obtaining the insurance for two or three shillings less.

The Association is always willing to advise members with regard to all classes of insurance, and communications in this connection should be addressed to the N.A.L.G.O. Insurance Department, 24 Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

WHAT'S WHAT IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT?

See the "MUNICIPAL JOURNAL"

HOME GARDENING

By WALTER P. WRIGHT

Author of "Roses and Rose Gardens," "Alpine Flowers and Rock Gardens," "The Wright Encyclopædia of Gardening," etc.

WHEN the lawn tennis nets and posts have to be put in store for the winter a shade of depression is apt to overtake devotees of that pleasant summer pastime who are unable to participate in more strenuous winter games and yet have no compensating outdoor pleasure. But has the year ended because the summer has gone? Not for flower-gardeners. Rather is it rejuvenated in the happy pursuit of preparing for the spring display. The aromatic fumes of the rubbish fire enliven the breeze, there is a sparkling tang in the keen morning air, the spade sinks silkily into the moist soil of beds and borders which have been cleared of their summer occupants and enticing bags of bulbs and boxes of sturdy seedlings cheer the eye.

To Flower Another Day

This writer must plead guilty to a charge often laid against him in the domestic circle that he thoroughly enjoys ruthlessly ejecting once-treasured plants on damp, sunless autumn days which are declared over the breakfast table to be thoroughly depressing. Well, quite a goodly proportion of the plants ousted with such gusto are kept to flower another day. Begonias, Gladioli, Dahlias and Zonal Geraniums, for example, are not tossed ignominiously on to the rubbish fire with the remnants of the annuals and thereby converted into wood-ash; on the contrary, they are stored, in the several ways best suited to them, with cheerful expectations of future service. For the rest, annuals are annuals and cannot outlive their allotted term, while the tops of herbaceous plants are equally governed by the life-limits imposed upon them. And since they have to pass, why not let the conditions of passing be such as tend to neatness, cleanliness, and the interests of their successors? That is the philosophy, in my own particular case, lying behind the admitted enjoyment of clearance and subsequent swift thorough digging on days when sunshine is absent and skies are lowering.

Bare ground in the flower-garden can hardly be turned too deeply, especially if yard manure is being incorporated; but some readers may wonder whether the tillage should be as hearty if artificials are being used instead of dung. Broadly, yes, but to some extent this turns on the kinds. Nitrate of soda and sulphate of ammonia should not be buried deeply, but quite shallow; really, however, I would not use these in autumn at all, prefering slower acting kinds such as bone meal and kainit and using the others as hasteners of growth in spring. In a wet winter, nitrogenous salts are apt to be washed down too deeply to be of much use to the plants in spring.

Bone meal is a particularly useful fertiliser for enriching the soil during the winter, as its action is slow; and it may be dug in to the full depth of a spade. Lime, as used (and wisely used) for Wallflowers, should not, however, be dug in so deeply, but preferably forked into the surface soil during planting, as it tends to work its way out of reach of the roots if put far down. Of the potash salts, kainit is about the cheapest and should certainly be dug in deeply—not left near the surface, where there might be direct contact with the plants, otherwise injury rather than benefit would probably follow. Suitable quantities per square rod (30¼ square yards) of bone meal, lime and kainit respectively would be 7 lb., 14 lb. (double this quantity if ground limestone is being used instead of quicklime), and 10 lb. 7 lb. per rod would be ample if sulphate of potash were used instead of kainit and it is certainly safer.

It will be observed that I do not recommend superphosphate, which I have often mentioned in these pages. The reason is that I think it does better service towards the end of winter, when root action is becoming active, and 4 or 5 lb. per rod hoed in during February or March would be likely to do more good than double the quantity applied now.

It may be that among my many readers there are some who have used yard manure for several years (often after going to much trouble to get it) and who now wonder whether they might not rely on artificials for a change, thus saving themselves a good deal of bother and perhaps a certain amount of expense also. I would not dissuade anyone so inclined; it is, in fact, a course under consideration by myself for my own purposes, in spite of my having a rather "hungry" soil to deal with. There is no gainsaying that the regular use of yard manure entails a good deal of weeding, for there are weed seeds by the million in most kinds of yard manure, as there certainly are not in bags of artificial fertilisers. But for goodness' sake, my friends, keep the surface soil loose with hoeing next year, weeds or no weeds, because that tends to conserve moisture.

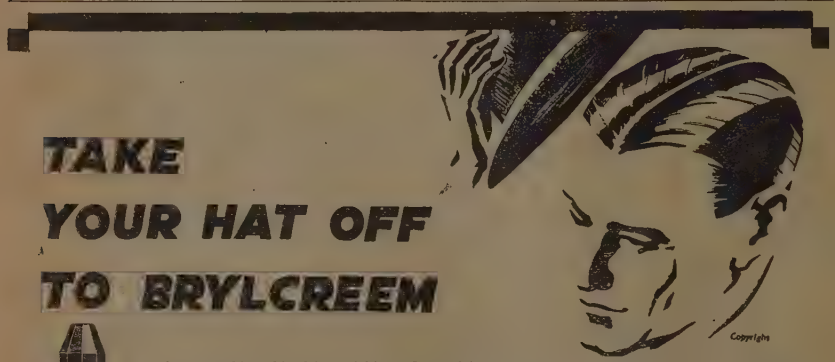
This Month's Planting

Among the principal plants to put in this month are bulbs of all kinds, Canterbury Bells, Brompton Stocks, giant double Daisies, Wallflowers, Sweet Williams, Forget-me-nots, Polyanthuses, and Primroses. I am afraid many of my readers will find themselves short of seedling plants, on account of the dry summer, and in this connection I may mention that trade florists are short too, and their prices may be a little higher than usual. But extra bulbs may, of course, be substituted if considered more economical. In the case of Wallflowers, I would endeavour to keep a certain amount of soil round the roots if planting early in October; but towards the end of the month it should be quite safe to shake off all the soil as is done in the public parks, and this saves labour.

Two highly popular annuals which may be sown outside now in favourable places are Calendulas and Sweet Peas. What a vogue have the former enjoyed during the past few years! They have deserved every bit of it, too. They are about the most showy and accommodating of all the Marigolds, and it is no wonder that they have to a consideralbe extent supplanted the old African and French Marigolds. They are forms of the old-fashioned "Pot Marigold." As regards Sweet Peas, I am personally not optimist enough to sow choice named varieties outdoors in autumn, but, as a cautious soul with due respect for the bawbees, prefer to trust my fortunes to a comparatively inexpensive mixture, sowing the aristocrats under glass.

Special Treatment For Grass

This is a good time of year to give grass a little special treatment. Areas sown a few weeks ago should now be green and it will do them good to give several light rollings when the soil is not so wet that it "picks up" and brings the young grass with it. Should the grass be getting long, get a handy scythesman to tip it if possible: failing that, use the mower with the cylinder set rather higher than usual. Established lawns can often be mown with advantage throughout October, but if there are trees near, fallen leaves may need to be removed first. Again, worm casts may become a nuisance and should be scattered with a besom during a dry spell before the mower is put on. Weeds are not perhaps unduly numerous this autumn, but of course there are always some about, and a few hours with the grubber and a tin of lawn sand can hardly fail to be rewarded. If getting on in years and running to flesh do not despise a kneeling pad. A prayerful attitude can never be unbecoming.



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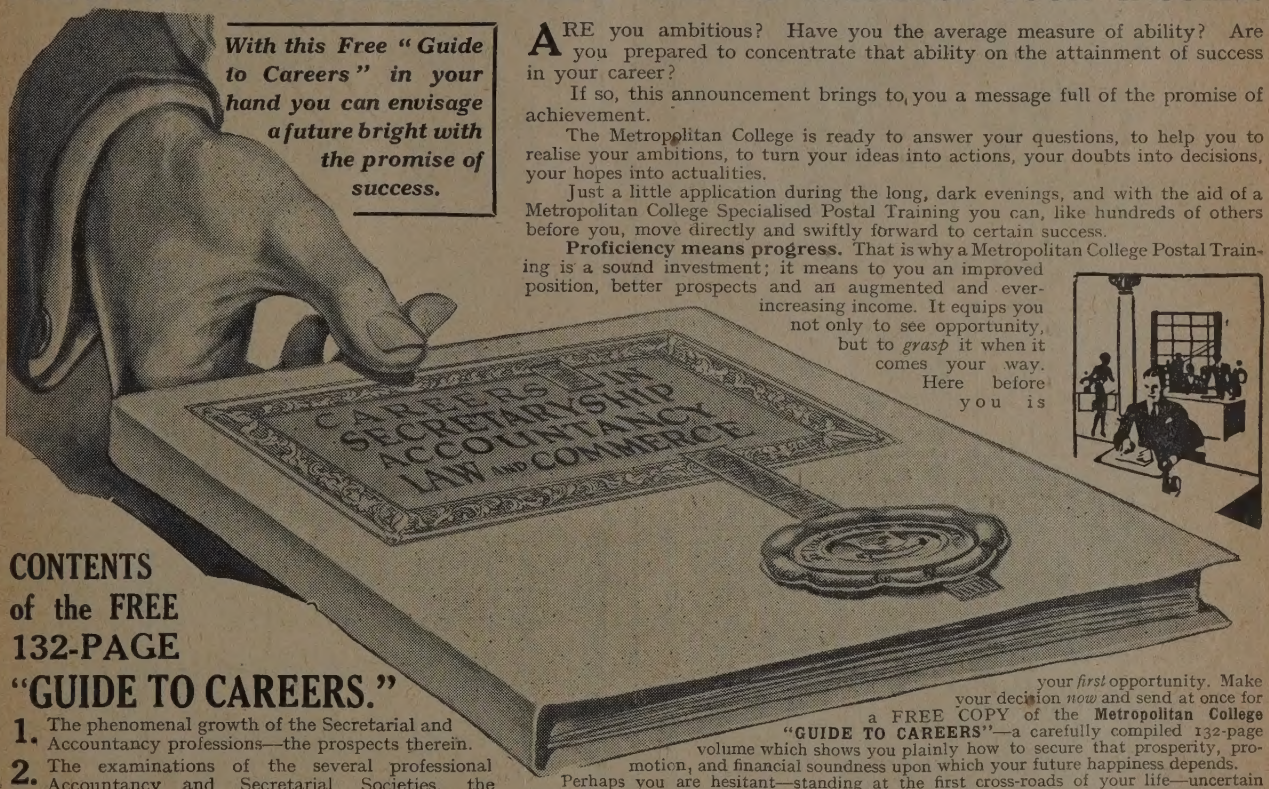

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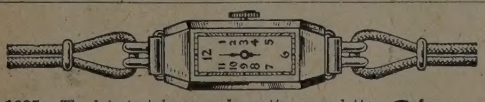

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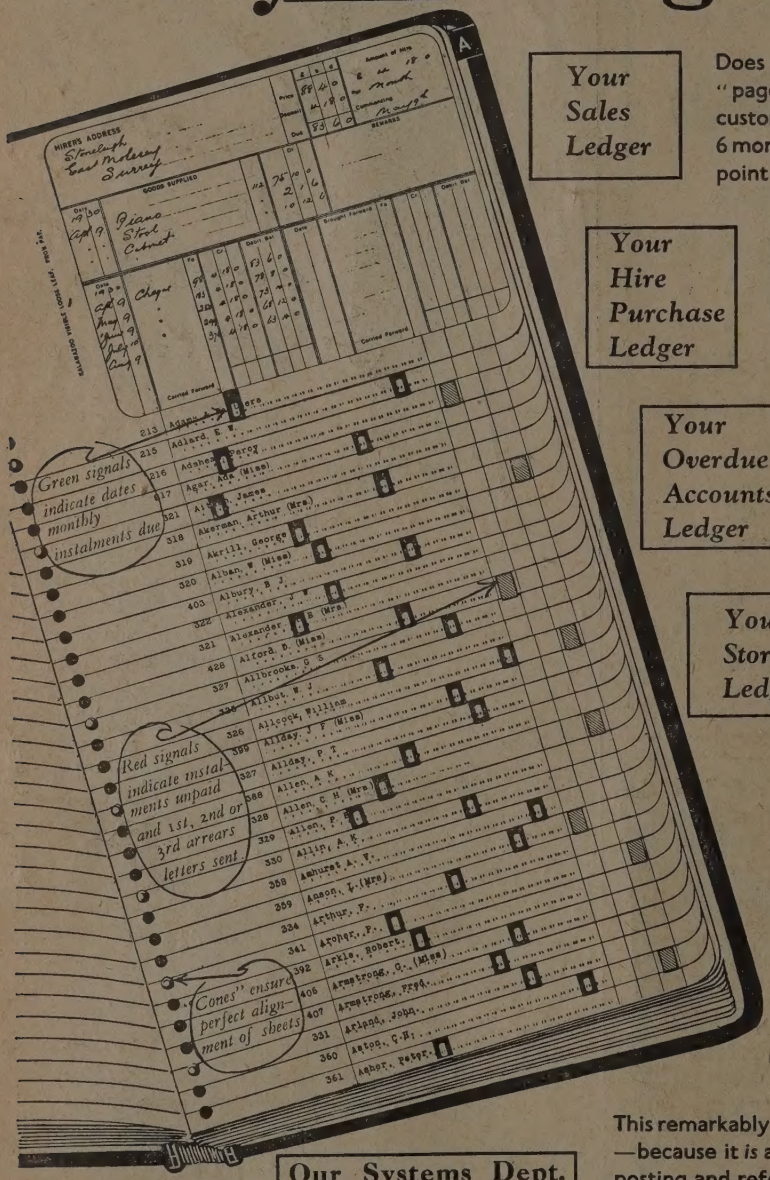
Green signals indicate dates monthly instalments due
Red signals indicate instal ments unpaid and 1st, 2nd or 3rd arrears letters sent
"Cones" ensure perfect align ment of sheets

All names in above illustration are fictitious and relate to no living person.

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